

KANSAS CITY
THE MAGAZINE

Crossroads

Missouri Southern State University - Spring 2004

Surviving the Switch

How International Students are
adjusting to Southern

People

Calling the Game

Campus Life

Worth the Wait

Real Living

Life Outside the Halls

Technology

A Parallel Universe



Crossroads



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This campus is overflowing with unique individuals. Some are fresh out of high school, while others have experienced life without the underlying title of "student." There are some who call small country towns their homes, and others who remember growing up under the bright lights of big cities. We cannot even call ourselves Americans here, because for several students, home is thousands of miles away in a different country.

It is for these important reasons that *Crossroads: The Magazine* has strived to put together a diverse publication in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

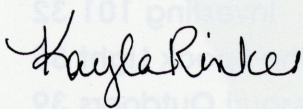
This spring 2004 issue of *Crossroads* is packed with informative and entertaining feature stories of interest to a wide variety of personalities.

For example, the feature story on Page 17 highlights two couples who made the decision to wait to have sex until after marriage. The reason for their decision, and their views toward society's depiction of sex, warrants an interesting topic for debate among many college students.

International students who come to Southern deal with many issues that sometimes go unmentioned. In the story on Page 25, several international students speak out about what Southern is doing right for them and about those things the University could improve.

Wise investing is something many people know little about. The story on Page 32 provides information regarding who should invest, where they should put their money, and how much they should set back each month for investment.

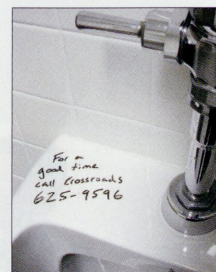
There are many other stories of interest inside this issue of *Crossroads*. It can help you search for that perfect apartment, explore the outdoors in Missouri or become involved with a local computer gaming group. So, take a look inside and discover what's in it for you.



Kayla Rinker

Editor

National Award Winning House Advertisement



The spring 2003 issue of *Crossroads: The Magazine* claimed first place in the house advertising category in the national Associated Collegiate Press Awards in 2003.

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Calling the GAME

Story by Kayla Rinker

Photos by Andy Tevis

Officials take pride in their knowledge of the game.

The smell of fresh, buttery popcorn began to creep into the gymnasium. Game workers and volunteers started pulling down the bleachers from both sides of the court and setting up cushioned chairs for each team's bench.

With gear in hand and headphones gently resting on their ears, the visiting team entered the athletic center. Led by their head coach, the players headed toward the locker room designated for their use.

A little more than an hour before game time, John Murray, one of three officials for the evening's game, entered the familiar gym and took a look around.

"I've dressed in every room of this building," Murray said.

Murray has been a basketball referee since 1976 and has worked college games and tournaments since the early 1990s. He started refereeing after a friend talked him into it to earn some extra money after college.

He first started at a local YMCA where he just showed up and called the game. He then took a test and received a license to qualify him for junior and senior high school games. He said the official's next step is calling junior college and college games.

"At the college level, officials are hired under supervision in each conference," Murray said. "Each conference holds their own camps and clinics that are developmental as well as a way to get exposure. The conference puts you in a clinic and if they see people they can use, they hire them."

As one of the more experienced officials in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association, Murray is the game manager for most of the games he officiates.

The game manager does the reports after the games and the contacting prior to the games.

"You contact the school and the other two officials and confirm times and dates," Murray said.

Before a game starts and after Murray changes out of his street clothes and into his black and white stripes, he and the other officials get together for a pre-game conference. They review things like new rule changes and mechanics, as well as situations that have happened between the two competing teams in the past.

"We discuss the personalities of the coaches and the players and whether or not the teams have a good or bad history against each other," Murray said.



"We talk about what types of games they play, whether they do a lot of press defense or other defense tendencies. We try to get into our minds what things can happen."

Besides communicating what is to come, the referees also stretch and loosen up before the initial jump ball starts a game.

During the first half of college play, both teams usually stream up and down the court displaying great amounts of athleticism. There are displays of talent, perfectly executed offense and stellar defense.

Undoubtedly, a tough call for the referees can arise. A situation may occur that could go either way and it's up to the officials to decide.

"First we talk to each other as referees and ask, 'What did you see?' That usually clarifies anything," Murray said.

"It's not who's right, but what's right."

During half time, Murray and the rest of the officials sit down and drink water.

While they sit, they talk and analyze any unusual things in the game they need to be aware of.

After the

game, the officials go over what went well and what could be improved on.

Each referee also gives input into what needs to be said in the post-game report.

"Once all that is finished, we just shower and leave," Murray said.

While Murray prefers the fast-paced intensity of college basketball, Dan Rogers enjoys calling the game behind the plate. He has been umpiring base-

ball and soft-ball for more than 22

years. He started right out of high school umpiring little league and other area youth league games.

"I like sports. I played in high school," Rogers said.

"Umpiring was an opportunity to make some money. It was not something I always dreamed of doing. When I began calling high school games, I started enjoying it. It is a hobby more than anything else."

Now Rogers umpires an average of two to three times a week during the spring, summer and fall months.

He officiates more college games than anything else.

"By umpiring college ball I've gone as far as Salem, Virginia, to Salem, Oregon," Rogers said. "It's very rewarding and a lot of fun."

Wearing thick pads underneath his navy blue uniform, Rogers has had to deal with many different and difficult situations during his umpiring career. From snow and sleet in the early spring to the use of bad language on the field, Rogers has been there.

"I've had many coaches who were frustrated," he said.

"I always try to look at it from the coach's standpoint. Is he a little frustrated or has he gone past that?"

I've kicked one coach out because I don't think there is a place for certain behavior in sports, especially when around kids."

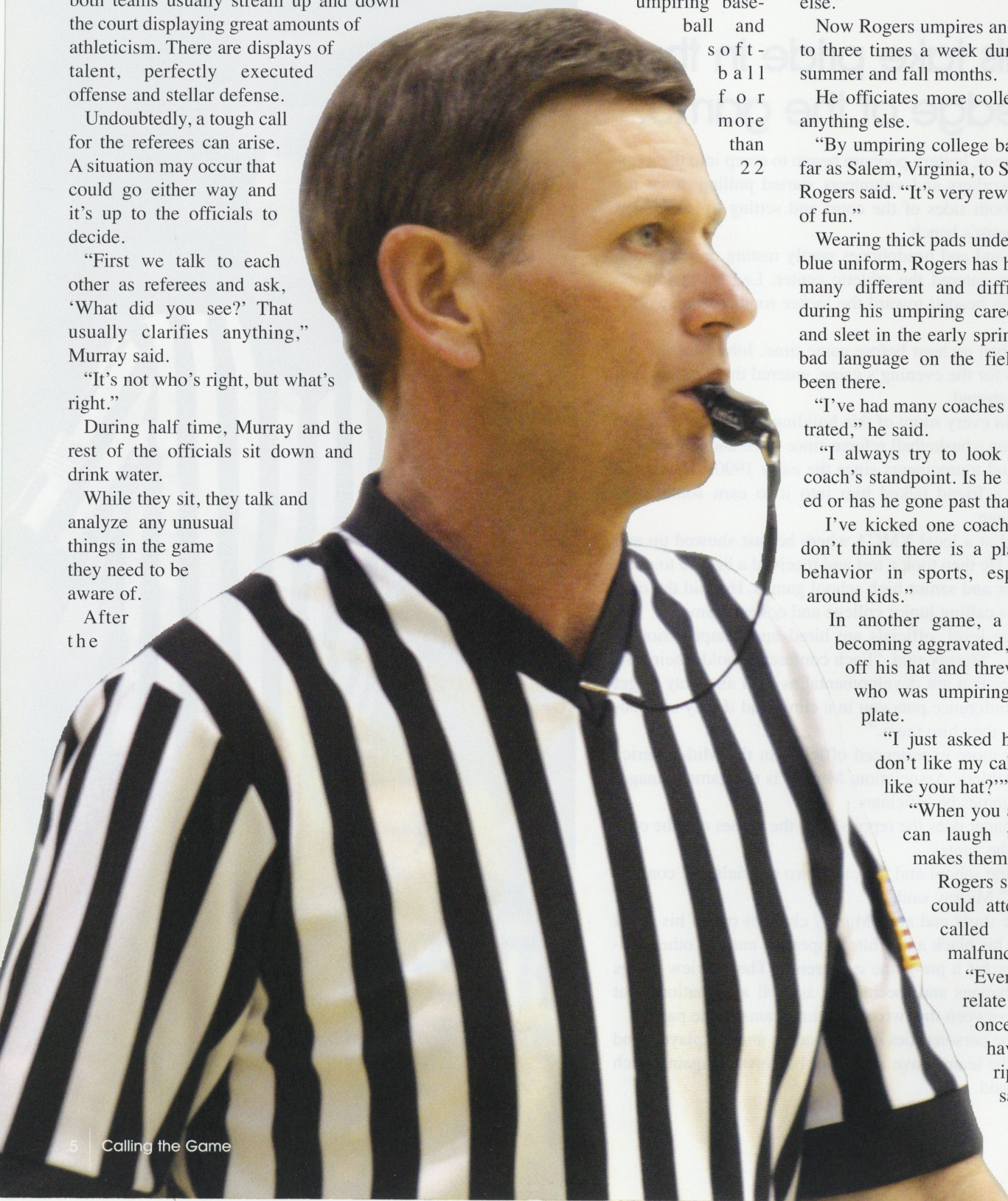
In another game, a coach started becoming aggravated, and he yanked off his hat and threw it at Rogers, who was umpiring behind home plate.

"I just asked him, 'Is it you don't like my call, or you don't like your hat?'" Rogers said.

"When you add humor and can laugh things off, it makes them much easier."

Rogers said all umpires could attest to what is called a "wardrobe malfunction."

"Every umpire can relate, at least maybe once or twice, to having their pants ripped," Rogers said.



"You have to finish the game like that, too. You can laugh about it later."

Though they call different games, Rogers and Murray agreed that blow out games are by far the hardest games to officiate.

"When you are really into the game its not hard, but in a blow out there is a tendency to relax," Rogers said. "You have to stay focused even though the game is not very good."

Murray said the pressure of a close game is automatically put upon the official of that game.

"You start to put the same pressure on yourself because you are always striving for the perfect game," Murray said.

However, that "perfect game" never happens.

Though officials rarely admit possible mistakes in judgment at the time of the incidents, after the game, officials will look back on a call and think about

whether or not it was the right choice.

"When something happens you have to react right then," Murray said.

"You later question yourself with, 'Did I see the right angle?' Every game there is something."

Rogers officiated a high school district game between Webb City and Carl Junction. Looking back on it now, he thinks he probably made the wrong call.

"I had an idea about an illegal substitution," Rogers said.

"It didn't have an effect on the outcome of the game, but it was still the wrong ruling. You have to learn from everything that happens."

Every outing is a test of an official's knowledge of the game. Every referee or umpire has a different style of officiating and a different line that players, coaches and fans shouldn't cross.

"A good official will call everything that happens, but a good official becomes great by what they don't call," Murray said. "Every step you are making a decision. Every time. Constantly. You can

blow the whistle all night long, but you have to let the players play."

"The main thing is to be as professional as possible," Rogers said. "Keep the humor in it. Some officials take themselves way too seriously. Just keep everything simple."

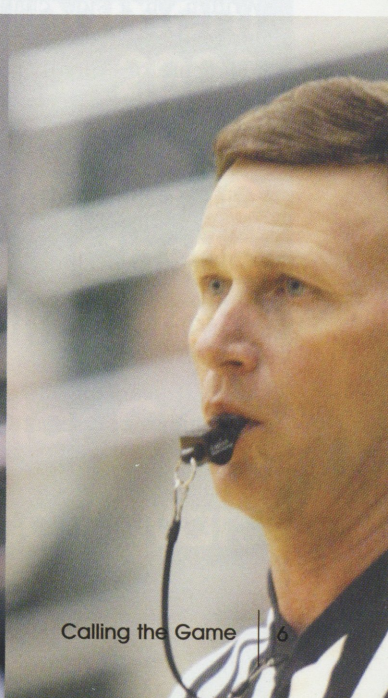


John Murray has worked as a basketball referee since 1976.

“

*It's not who's right,
but what's right.*

”



Beyond the Education Program

Story by Kristen Smith

Photos by Christine Thrasher

Southern graduate still works hard in the classroom.

Under the soft glow of florescent lights, a chilly air fills the empty green room. White tiles cover the floor where seven rows of desks fill the space.

Students begin to emerge from the hallways of Carl Junction High School, chattering with friends and finding their seats.

A couple of students write funny notes on the chalkboard and then take their seats in Mr. Long's Modern American History class.

Written on a side chalkboard the students read a thought from their teacher.

"The cure of crime is not in the electric chair, but in the high chair."

Josh Long is the last to enter the classroom. His messy blonde hair and Doc Martins match the style of the high school students he teaches.

A blue-striped shirt neatly coordinated with a yellow tie and khaki pants set him apart as the teacher.

A 2000 graduate of Missouri Southern, Long is 25 years old and has been teaching social studies courses at Carl Junction for two years.

"I recognize a good teacher when the kids say the teacher has a tough class with

challenging assignments, but they like the class," Long said.

The students enjoy Long's classes, and some refer to him as Mr. Long, Coach, or Coach Long. His junior-level course on Modern American History is one that particularly accents his style of teaching.

The room is full of 16-and 17-year-olds, talking among friends as they attempt to work on group projects together. Long wanders the room, helping out where he can.

"I like group three; we should all try to be like group three," Long said. "Look how quietly they are working."

His witty humor and willingness to help and encourage students sets him apart from many teachers.

Because he is a young teacher, he tries to make sure there is a line between being the students' friend and their teacher. He said this task is easier with his freshman- and sophomore-level classes.

"I look forward to coming to this class every day," said Lauren Pemberton, junior.

"Mr. Long has a way of making class a fun experience."

During small group time in class, Pemberton laughed at herself when she can't remember how to use an encyclopedia.

Long jumped in to help her out and joked to the students regarding the lack of books used for studying by this generation.

"I don't know. I guess it would be under U-Z," said Long. "Zoroastrianism? Is that the love of Zoro?"

Outside of teaching social studies classes every day, Long gives more of his time to the Carl Junction community by coaching freshman boys basketball, junior high cross country and by serving as Student Council sponsor for the high school. He had the desire to get involved in the high school and volunteered to work with the Student Council.

"He pushes us to do our best," said Jenna Garde, junior Student Council president. "We are able to do a lot for the school through his good ideas."

Long served as the STUCO president his junior and senior years at Sarcoxie High School, and he thought it would be a great experience to work with the organization at CJHS.

"You're working with the best of the best kids," Long said. "They run for office and the other kids pick the best

kids. I get to work with a great group."

Long originally went to Southern pursuing a degree in kinesiology.

Soon after, he found his interest in polit-



Josh Long
Social Studies Teacher
Carl Junction High School

I can look at any assignment that I was given, and it really was preparing me.



While teaching a Modern American History course, Long helps Kim Sparlin, junior, with a worksheet assigned during the second half of class.

ical science and finished with a bachelor of science in education in social studies. He thinks his time spent in the education program at Southern prepared him for what it takes to be a teacher in the community. The large amounts of paperwork and planning students complete during their education can get overwhelming. He said there are a lot of “hoops to jump through” in the education program.

“It was definitely worth it,” Long said. “I can look at any assignment that I was given, and it really was preparing me. There are times you feel so busy, but I was prepared.

“Southern knows what is expected of teachers when we get out of there. They do

a great job preparing you for everything that will get thrown at you.”

During his time at Southern he played drums in the marching band and participated in intramural sports.

As a Sarcoux native, he commuted to Southern and often found it difficult to be involved on campus outside of class. Long teaches with other Southern graduates who are now young teachers at Carl Junction.

“It is fun working with the other faculty,” Long said. “There are a lot of young teachers, and it’s nice to be around people your own age, so the people around me become my friends.”

Long resides in Webb City with his wife Michelle who graduated with a degree in

dental hygiene from Southern. The Longs attend Christ’s Church of Oronogo, and he said he doesn’t think it’s difficult to be a Christian teacher in the public school system.

In September 2002, an announcement was made regarding the death of a student cheerleader from the high school.

As the students and faculty became shocked and upset, Long told his class he was going out into the hallway to pray. He left an open invitation for students to join him.

The majority of the class chose to join him in the hallway as they prayed for the family of the student who died.

Though social studies is his designated



Long leads a class discussion with his Modern American History class. The class rotates on block scheduling and meets every other day.

subject, Long doesn't fear class discussion about religion.

"I teach about Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and I talk about Christianity," he said.

"This is an educational experience, I want to give the kids an educated view of Christianity."

Long remembers his student teaching experience at Carl Junction and how it prepared him for the classroom environment. He now allows students from Southern to observe his classes through the junior internship in the teacher education program.

Long completed his junior internship in the Webb City school district and decided he wanted to work at either Carl Junction or Webb City.

Long loves his job at Carl Junction High School and cannot see himself doing anything else for the time being.

"I love teaching," Long said.

"Right now, I can't see myself doing something different. I love the summers off."

Teachers can choose to continue teaching through the summer or enjoy the break with the students. Long has taught summer school and basketball camps in the past.

Someday he hopes to receive his master's in political science. After Southern's name change, he spoke with Cindy Spencer about the graduate programs soon to come and learned that the University is looking into adding a political science program.

Long finds his job rewarding and beneficial. As each day passes and students come and go, discussing the random humor of "Mr. Long," he thinks his job is successful.

"Getting to be a part of students' lives for four years is rewarding," Long said.

"I was a part of helping them grow, and it's exciting seeing end results."



Long gives a brief lecture during the first half of class before the students break for lunch.

Freedom Fighter

Story by Philip Martin
Photos by Naoko Onoda

Holocaust memories remain with local veteran.

"Sarge, the kike has been hit!"

The cry went over the battlefields of northern France to Dave Bevan, who rushed to his friend's side to see if he was still alive. Bevan was too late.

His friend, Sam Katz, a Jewish taxi driver from San Francisco, had been hit in a battle north of Lyon, France. Not long before the battle, Katz had given Bevan a blood transfusion during the invasion of Sicily after Bevan had been hit.

Bevan's wish of wanting to return the favor was too late. This is one of many memories Bevan has of World War II. He said one of the worst parts of that day was one of the last words Katz heard, "kike."

"Kike is like what nigger is to a Negro," Bevan said, "but to a Jew."

Bevan has always thought about why the guy shouted out kike:

"Why couldn't he have said 'Sam has been hit' or 'The Jew has been hit?'" he said.

"Why didn't he say something else?"

Bevan is now a DJ for KRPS 89.9 FM at Pittsburg State University. He has been retired from the Army since 1976, putting in 35 years of service.

During the years he spent in the Army, it was Bevan's time fighting in World War II that he remembers best.

Bevan enlisted in the Army during April 1941, eight months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States' entrance into the war. Bevan said after he enlisted he moved around from occupation to occupation before he was sent off to the war.

In November 1942, Bevan and his unit were shipped to North Africa. In Africa, Bevan was part of an ordnance outfit whose job it was to haul tanks, both new tanks and ones that were hit in battle. The unit did this until April 1943; the war in North Africa ended in early May of the same year.

"We had a hiatus of three months in what is now Iran," he said. "We were putting together trucks to be turned over to the Russians."

Bevan was stationed in Karanshar, a port on the Persian Gulf. The trucks were shipped to the unit in big crates.

"The wheels were off and the bodies were all put down in parts," Bevan said.

After the trucks were assembled, the unit created a convoy and drove more than 1,200 miles to the Russian border.

The unit gave the vehicles to the Russians as part of the Lend-Lease Agreement America had with Russia.

"After that they took us back to Africa,"

Bevan said. "The powers that be said they didn't need my particular kind of unit anymore."

Bevan was transferred to the 45th Infantry Division.

On July 10, 1943, Bevan and thousands of other British and American troops landed on the southern shores of the island of Sicily under the cover of darkness.

The troops took the Germans and Italians by surprise and, within hours, gained control of 150 miles of the coast. Allied troops swept across the island, capturing Palermo, and on August 17, 1943, they had liberated all of Sicily. It was during this campaign that Bevan was wounded, and Katz gave him a blood transfusion.

The next invasion Bevan took part in was at the Anzio beachhead in an effort to outflank the Germans to come up on Cassino Pass and help the British.

Reinforcements for the Germans arrived, and it was a hard-fought battle for Italy. In May 1944, the Allies overcame the Germans at both Anzio and Cassino Pass. Rome was liberated on June 4, 1944, two days before the D-Day Invasion at Normandy, France.

After taking Italy, Bevan helped in the invasion of southern France, where his lieutenant was killed on one of the beaches.

"I was directed to take his commission from the battalion commander," Bevan said. "So, I became a second lieutenant. The oldest in Europe, I guess."

Bevan stayed with his platoon and fought up the Rhone River to the Rhein River. The platoon crossed the Rhein in early 1944. The division fought across Germany, and in April 1945, Bevan and his platoon were heading south toward Munich.

"That was our destination, because it was a big city," he said. "They thought it was going to be a big fight to conquer it because the war was about over and the Germans were fleeing, and we weren't fighting them very much. So, we figured there would be a huge standoff down there."

On the way to Munich, Bevan received a radio call saying they would be going by a prison camp outside of Dachau, and there wouldn't be any fighting at the camp.

This day was the start of seven years worth of nightmares for Bevan.

"No one said anything about it (the camp) particularly," he said.

"We were coming south alongside a river, and the 43rd Division was over on

our right. We were the 45th, and my platoon was in with the 1st Battalion of the 180th Infantry."

As they came down the hill, the divisions could see the camp in front of them. It was an "area spread out with lots of buildings and a huge fence around them." Bevan said the camp looked like a factory, but with one difference — the odor.

"It smelled," he said.

"You could smell it. It smelled like nothing you smelled before. It was a death smell."

As they approached the camp, they could see people inside the fence, wearing what appeared to be pajamas, moving around. Off to one side, Bevan spotted what he believed to be a stack of cord wood. He was wrong.

"We came around almost to the front," Bevan said. "At that time we met a unit from the 43rd that had come around from the other side."

He was able to get a better view of the prisoners from the gates, which were electrified.

"They looked like cadavers," he said. "They didn't have any meat on them, didn't have teeth."

Bevan got on the radio and called the company commander and told him "we were in front of the place and they should send somebody down there because it was something no one has ever seen before."

After the radio call, some of the troops discovered a series of boxcars that were sitting on a siding that went into the camp. Bevan and some men went over and pulled the door open on the first car. It was full of bodies.

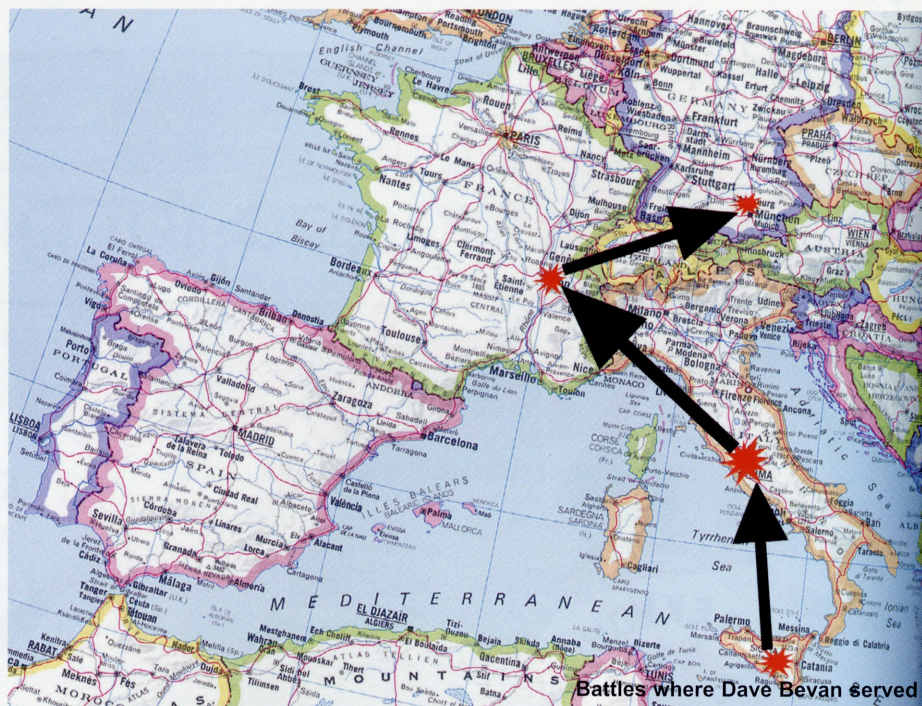
There were 34 boxcars, and all of them were filled with bodies.

"This isn't the kind (of boxcars) you would see in the United States," Bevan said. "These were the little ones, they only have four wheels, and they're short. They are what the French called '40 and eight.' It could hold 40 men or eight horses."

Bevan took some men and checked every car in hopes of finding live bodies, but they only found dead ones. Some of the bodies had broken out and were lying on the ground. Guards had beaten several bodies with clubs. By the time the cars were all checked, the battalion commander was at the camp. Someone found switches to cut the electricity so the units could get into the camp.



Dave Bevan, DJ for KRPS 89.9 FM, was among the soldiers who liberated the Dachau Holocaust Camp located north of Munich, Germany.



As the gates were opened and the troops moved in, the prisoners swarmed them.

Bevan was still under the opinion that the people in the camp were criminals.

"I had a young private in my unit who spoke German," he said.

"The first thing he said to me was, 'These are not criminals, L.T. These are Jewish people, and this is one of the killing places where they brought the Jewish people.'"

No one had run into this kind of thing before. Buchenwald was liberated a couple of days before, but no one knew about it. Bevan said it was something out of "your imagination, nothing you have seen or heard of before."

Some of the German guards had a white flag and were ready to surrender, but some of them were accidentally shot by the Americans because the guards were healthy looking and the inmates probably weighed about 50 pounds.

The soldiers began handing out food. They gave C-rations, hard biscuits or whatever they had in their packs. Most of the inmates had little to no teeth, but took the food anyway.

A medical officer came into the camp and told everyone not to feed the inmates because they could kill them.

"It was awful hard to say no to someone that was starving to death right in front of you," Bevan said.

A complete hospital unit was brought up

and set up in the camp to feed the survivors food they could assimilate.

Some of the soldiers who were there couldn't take what they were seeing. Bevan recalls one soldier throwing his gun up into the air and sitting down with his head in his hands crying. His company commander came over and relieved him. The man was put into a jeep, given something to drink, and was not allowed to leave the jeep. Three days later the man was back with his unit and was doing OK.

"He just sat on the ground with big tears, just wailing," Bevan said.

"Most of us who had been with the unit for any length of time were used to death and used to our men being wounded, killed and seeing other people that way. It wasn't all that rough, but it was beyond any comprehension that I had or any idea that I would see anything like that."

When Bevan was able to check out the stack of what he believed was cordwood, he was shocked at what he saw. The stack was approximately 10 feet high and 300 feet long and it was a stack of naked bodies on top of one another like stacked up fence posts. No one knew they were bodies until they got close to the stack.

The troops were there from the morning until early evening when the order came down to head on to Munich, because they were still expecting a large resistance. He had heard later that most of the survivors could not be saved because they were too

far gone; their stomachs were unable to take the food because they had gone so long without it. Bevan said when they got to Munich it was a walk through, because the German troops had left. It was the final days of the war, and the Germans were in full retreat and unorganized.

V-E Day came on May 7, 1945, when the Germans surrendered unconditionally. By that time the division Bevan was in was almost in Czechoslovakia. After the war ended, Bevan found himself still in Europe using his training as an explosives expert in defusing bombs.

When he returned to the United States, he married and had twins.

Bevan started having nightmares about the camp at Dachau. He would kick and punch while asleep.

His wife had to get a separate bed so she wouldn't be kicked in the middle of the night. After seven years, the nightmares went away. He and his wife raised their children off base on his wife's request. Bevan's wife has since passed away. After Bevan became a DJ at PSU's radio station, he was introduced to Dr. William Tannenbaum, associate professor of history at Missouri Southern.

Tannenbaum has on occasion brought Bevan to Southern to talk to some of his German history classes. Bevan enjoys reminiscing with students about his time in World War II, especially the day he helped save thousands of people.

Magic Kicks



Story by Alice Hossain
Photos by Christine Thrasher

Martial arts specialists unravel the mysteries of their crafts.

Her body is her ultimate weapon. She can respond with lightning speed and an explosive force if ever physically attacked.

Vicki Pittman, 44, is chief instructor and owner of Joplin ATA Black Belt Academy as well as an experienced tae kwon do professional.

Tae kwon do is both constant in form and in purpose.

It is an artistic discipline, an Olympic sport, a system of self-defense, and a way of life. It also gives power. It is a powerful self-defense more frightening than the mere shattering of boards.

"It's always self-defense," Pittman said. "Not to say that we can't eliminate our opponent if we need to, but we are not the ones who aggressively attack.

"And, once we get a situation under control, we stop fighting and call for help. We never go beyond the point to eliminate anyone."

Today, Pittman is a top 10 world champion.

She said she would not be where she is

today without strength, iron determination and self-discipline.

She trains every day with children, women and men.

"I train with guys because one of the reasons I'm in the top 10 is because when I train with a guy, I can go up against any woman," Pittman said. "I have to be fast. Those guys are like grasshoppers. They jump really high, but I can jump as high as any guy."

The Black Belt Academy emphasizes perseverance and hard training. Powerful and artistic moves do not appear from nowhere. There is more behind tae kwon do than electrifying kicks, high-pitched yells and thrilling tournaments.

"Once I'm out on the floor, I get out and fight," Pittman said. "You get a high out of it, and people enjoy it because it's so exciting. And after the fight, you can look each other in the face and say, 'You did an awesome job.' You shake each other's hand and realize you're still friends, even though the other person may have beaten me. I try to learn something from the fight.

Vicki Pittman is a tae kwon do top 10 world champion in the women's division.

Like, maybe I should have used a different strategy when I fought, or maybe I should have been more focused when I was fighting. That's what's important; you go there to learn."

Learning various fighting techniques is one major achievement, but equally important to Pittman are strong values and a good attitude.

"We work a lot on moral values," Pittman said. "It's not only for children, it's for adults also. We work a lot on bringing people self-esteem. It's amazing to see how many adults have no self-esteem. We don't believe in the words 'I can't.' If you can't do it today, tomorrow you might be able to."

It is for this reason Pittman talks about

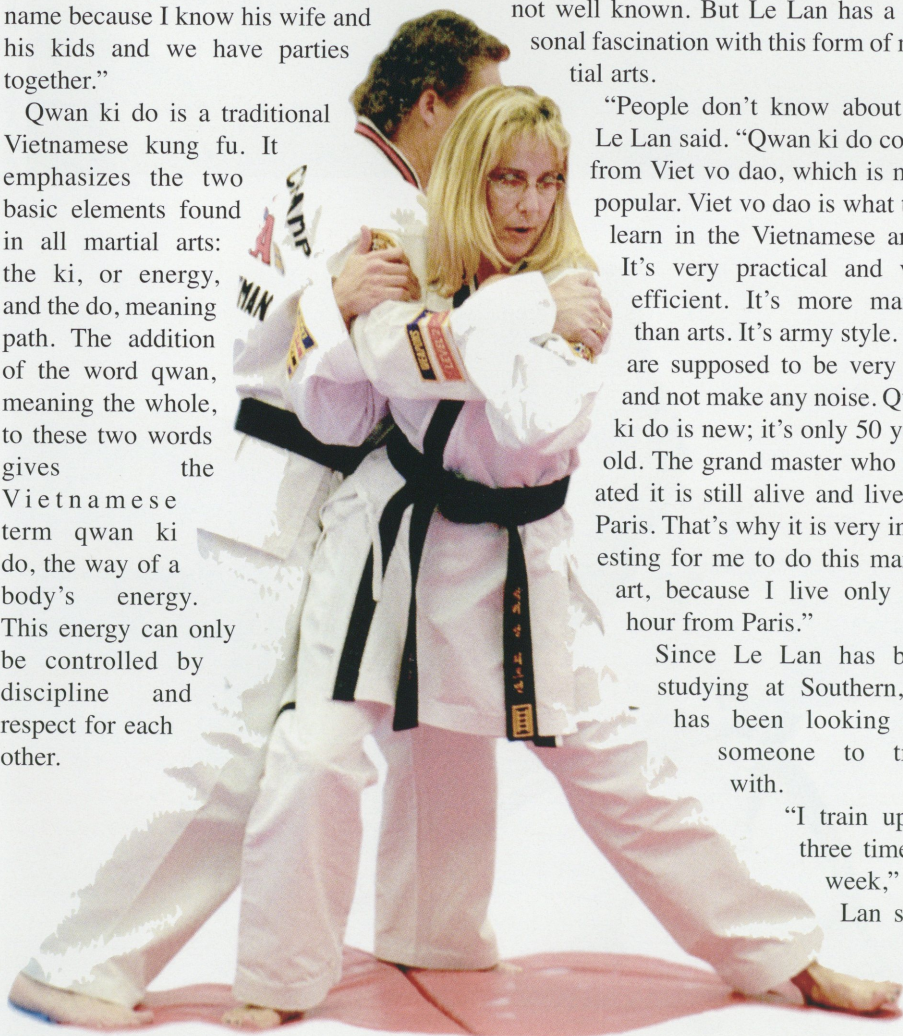
building respect for other people. She said it is especially important that she trains children using this method because they are shapable and more susceptible to positive influence.

"We believe that they should respect their parents or any person who is younger, older, lower belt or higher belt," Pittman said. "Respect is not something you get because you deserve it, but because you earn it. You treat others the way you want to be treated, it's the Golden Rule."

Francois Le Lan from Orleans, France, has a different view on what respect means. Le Lan, 22, is studying at Missouri Southern while writing his thesis. He learned qwan ki do in France from his master, Mr. Mortuza.

"My teacher, Mr. Mortuza, is from Turkey. He is an Armenian," Le Lan said. "He is a big guy and very athletic. In most martial arts, you have to call the master, 'master,' and you have to bow before you talk to him. I just call him by his first name because I know his wife and his kids and we have parties together."

Qwan ki do is a traditional Vietnamese kung fu. It emphasizes the two basic elements found in all martial arts: the ki, or energy, and the do, meaning path. The addition of the word qwan, meaning the whole, to these two words gives the Vietnamese term qwan ki do, the way of a body's energy. This energy can only be controlled by discipline and respect for each other.



Vicki Pittman watches while Jennifer McLellan and Seth Bingman practice tae kwon do kicks.

Opposite to tae kwan do, qwan ki do is not well known. But Le Lan has a personal fascination with this form of martial arts.

"People don't know about it," Le Lan said. "Qwan ki do comes from Viet vo dao, which is more popular. Viet vo dao is what they learn in the Vietnamese army. It's very practical and very efficient. It's more martial than arts. It's army style. You are supposed to be very fast and not make any noise. Qwan ki do is new; it's only 50 years old. The grand master who created it is still alive and lives in Paris. That's why it is very interesting for me to do this martial art, because I live only one hour from Paris."

Since Le Lan has been studying at Southern, he has been looking for someone to train with.

"I train up to three times a week," Le Lan said.

"But it is very hard to train when you are alone because you need to have someone to make it real, to have a response."

Pittman said she trains her students on how to respond correctly. Tae kwon do trains reflexes so keen and accurate that students can effectively defend themselves from attack from multiple assailants. But, Pittman said all discipline would be worthless if students never see their personal victories.

Students have their own reasons for doing tae kwon do. Some want to be able to defend and protect themselves, while others do it for physical fitness or for building self-esteem. However, they all unite toward one goal: personal victory.

"Once you give up, you are giving up on yourself, nobody else," Pittman said. "I don't ask you to be the way I am, and I'm not trying to be who you are. You may be able to kick higher than I can, but I will be the best that I can possibly be, and I will achieve personal victory."

Pittman is a fourth and fifth degree black belt and in the 40 to 49 age group. At a tournament in September, she was severely injured. But years of training builds will, and when she was truly tested, it served her well.

"My competitor was in the corner of the ring, and she went down so I thought she was falling," Pittman said. "I put my hands down, which was a mistake. I should have

kept them up. She quickly spun, did a heel-kick and hit me in the jaw. Heels, when they come sweeping around, are going over 60 miles per hour. They are pretty powerful."

The neck and back injuries she suffered from that fight only caused Pittman to want to train harder than before. She said if something happens during a match, it's important to get back out there and fight.

"It's like a roller coaster ride," Pittman said. "Are you scared of it? Then get back out there and do it. It's the only way to overcome your fears. If you are out on the streets, you have got to defend yourself no matter what. I don't care if you are hurt or not, you have to be focused."

Though Pittman has already achieved more than many throughout her years in tae kwon do, there is still one objective she has yet to complete. Pittman is currently a third and fourth degree black belt. To become a master, she must reach the sixth degree, a goal she desires to attain one day.

"I hope to be a master in the next 10 years," she said.

"I will get it. I will get it because I have enough perseverance to keep me in and enough determination that will make me do it."



Photo Illustration by Michael Sutter and Christine Thrasher



ATA Black Belt Academy student Amy Cox successfully administers a tae kwon do move on fellow student Seth Bingman.


TO DO list:

- Go to the store
- Return Library books
- Study for Econ. test
- Order Pizza.
- Sign up for
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WORTH



Tracy Horton, senior speech communication major, and her husband Nathan Horton, Southern graduate, were married October 10, 2003.



the Wait

Story by Kayla Rinker
Photos by Andy Tevis

Two couples accept the challenge, overcome temptation, and wait until marriage to have sex.

Every pair of eyes in the room were fastened to the front of the church sanctuary where a bride and a groom stood hand in hand. Draped in a sparkling, white satin gown, Tracy Hamilton would soon be pronounced Mrs. Nathan Horton, and the congregation would erupt into spontaneous applause.

Every available seat in the church was filled that night, and the soft twinkle of the strings of white lights attempted to put everyone's heart at rest.

The chaos of the wedding day had flown far away and a peaceful evening wedding evolved. Some tears had been shed during the ceremony, though not many, because this new marriage was a testimony of the pure love that was shared between two people. It focused on the spiritual connection and the bond Nathan and Tracy will have from this moment throughout eternity.

The huge crowd of family and friends started to become restless with anticipation over what was about to take place. Nathan

Horton was about to kiss his bride, Tracy (Hamilton) Horton, for the first time — ever!

The preacher looked to Nathan and Tracy and started speaking about what a kiss means and the intimacy that is shared when two people kiss.

A drum roll started and was heard just above the crowd's excitement. Tracy started tapping her foot under her dress in an impatient rhythm.

"They were drawing it out ridiculously," Tracy said. "It was like this kiss was the main event at a WWF wrestling match."

"You may now, kiss, the bride," the preacher said, and the auditorium broke out in loud whistles and impulsive cheers.

"When he kissed me, I thought I was going to drop right there," Tracy said.

"It was such a rush, and it was so worth the wait."

After a few seconds, Nathan began to pull away, but Tracy kept him close and continued their first kiss that lasted long enough for her mom to take four pictures.

"People were still screaming, so I had to give them their money's worth," Tracy said.

Many people had a good time at Nathan and Tracy's wedding. They enjoyed being part of the couple's first day as husband and wife and were excited to be a part of the couple's first kiss.

In today's world, a decision to wait to have sex until after marriage is unique in

*Desire is
natural, but the
act is designed
for a specific
context.*



Jennifer Jackson, senior elementary education major, and Mark Roskowski, senior biblical literature major at Ozark Christian College, plan to marry on July 10, 2004. Because of their religious values, they have made the commitment to wait to have sex until after they are married.

and of itself, but to wait until marriage to kiss? It's practically unheard of.

Nathan, a graduate of Missouri Southern, and Tracy, senior speech communication major, established their decision to wait to kiss before they started dating almost two years ago.

Though the decision itself was not hard, the temptation that followed became increasingly difficult.

"You just have to keep your head about you," Nathan said, "and tell your body to control itself. Anybody can set boundaries. It's not hard; you just have to stick to them."

For Nathan and Tracy, it was easier to avoid cars and dark places than to deny the fact they wanted to kiss each other. It was especially difficult for them the night they got engaged. Tracy said she remembers feeling tempted to do more than just kiss that night.

"Just because we don't kiss doesn't mean we didn't have temptation," Tracy said.

"We still have a 22- and 23-year-old's sex drive."

Mark Roskowski, senior biblical literature major at Ozark Christian College, and Jennifer Jackson, senior elementary education major at Southern, have set the date for their wedding for July 10 of this year.

Unlike Nathan and Tracy, Mark and Jennifer have kissed (they wanted to date at least six months before they kissed, but they gave in after about three), but they too have decided to wait to have sex until after they are married.

Their decision is based on the desire to develop a meaningful relationship without sex.

"We are waiting because God has called us to a higher standard," Jennifer said.

"It's exciting to think that I am the only person that will ever know that side of you," Mark said to his fiancé.

Mark said because of their choice, he and Jennifer have found fulfillment in other things couples who choose to have sex

before marriage may be missing out on.

"We actually have to talk to each other, and I think because of this, we have a deeper connection," he said.

Both couples agreed that society's ideas about sex are different from their beliefs. Tracy pointed out that though many movies show love scenes, it is rare that one of these scenes involves married people.

"It's distorted," Nathan said. "Hollywood doesn't give you an accurate portrayal of what sex is like."

Mark is most upset by the way society presents women and sex. He said society's interpretation of sex degrades the worthiness of women.

"I think a lot of girls out there are damaged goods," Mark said.

"They are scarred emotionally because they have done everything they can to please guys. They find their worth in sex, and it sucks."

Because of the changing public view of

what sex is and who it is designed for, couples who choose to wait often receive grief from people who may have sex before marriage.

Jennifer said she recalls sitting with several people and eating dinner when somebody mentioned something about sex. She plainly told them she and Mark don't have sex.

"He was like, 'What! No one does that anymore,'" she said. "It's especially a shock for people I know who have sex all the time.

"They are like, 'College without sex? Are you kidding?' It's like you said you weren't going to eat for the rest of your life or something."

Some people who choose to have sex before marriage also argue the importance of making sure two people are "sexually compatible" before they say, "I do." Mark said this way of thinking is "self-serving" and "shallow."

"That is a horrible view of what marriage is," he said. "Marriage isn't a safety net to ensure you can have sex every night instead of having to do the work to get around the bases."

Mark and Jennifer could not be more excited about their upcoming wedding day. They look forward to making the most

important commitment any two people can make and sharing an intimacy that only married people can share.

Mark has already started planning the wedding night in his head. He said it will be romantic and include candles, a white linen bedspread, and soothing music by John Coltrane will be playing in the background.

"I know it's going to be so exciting and pure," Jennifer said.

"I don't think I will be nervous. It's going to be like nothing we've ever experienced before, and it will take our relationship to a new level."

Nathan and Tracy said their wedding night was as close to perfect

as it could be. Nathan said it was not awkward going from hardly anything to everything.

"It was more natural," he said. "You are not supposed to know. You have your whole lifetime to learn."

Tracy did not have "100 percent virginity" when she and Nathan married. Her past is not something she's proud of, but it is something she has had to live with and grow away from.

She said through prayer, God has completely forgiven her for her sins, and she has since committed herself to a life of purity.

"I felt like a virgin on my wedding night," Tracy said. "Secondary virginity is possible. That night it was awesome and special and not old, but new and exciting in its entirety. There was no shame or guilt."

The most important thing to realize after deciding to wait until marriage to have sex is to understand that temptation will always be there.

"Desire is natural, but the act is designed for a specific context," Nathan said.

"It's possible," Jennifer said. "You can do it, and it is so worth the wait."

Mark looked over to Jennifer and gave her a sly grin.

"Sure, let's go another five years," he said.

"I don't think so," she said.

It's going to be so exciting and pure.



Nathan and Tracy Horton said saving sex for marriage made their relationship stronger.

From the Pastor's Heart

College Heights Christian Church minister, Randy Gariss, specializes in marriage relationships and marriage counseling. He has counseled more than 2,500 couples and has performed 500 weddings during a span of 30 years. One year, he decided to conduct an experiment.

"Out of all the couples I counseled one year, I kept specific track of whether or not they had had sex before marriage," Gariss said. "Out of exactly 96 couples who came to see me for marital problems, 93 of them confirmed they were involved sexually with each other before they were married."

He also took a group of 28 married couples who were not experiencing major difficulties in their marriage and surveyed them about whether or not they waited to have sex until after marriage.

"Beforehand, I told the couples not to come unless they wanted their children to have the same kind of marriage they have," Gariss said. "Out of 28 surveys, 27 came back and they all said no, they were not active sexually before marriage."

After 30 years of counseling, he noticed a pattern in the marriages of those who chose to have sex before marriage. He said sexual issues tend to reach the surface after approximately five to eight years of marriage.

"The woman gets frustrated and starts to wonder if the only reason her husband married her was because she was sexually easy," Gariss said. "Also, the man is less likely to take a bold leadership role in the home, and he becomes a sort of passing man. I would say 90-plus percent of all problems with marriages are involved with serious crossings of sexual issues. Also, 80 to 90 percent of successful marriages did not have sex beforehand."



WEAR'S YOUR SEAT BELT?

Column by Chad Hunter

Why buckling up can save your life.

I heard the squeal of rubber shredding from the tires and the crunch of metal meeting metal. Then the world began to spin and my head cracked against the window, all followed quickly by darkness. When I came to, I realized I had just been in a car crash and the front end of my Isuzu Trooper was about a half-foot from its original position. I looked at the other car to check the damage and saw two very large starbursts on the windshield. I struggled to release myself from my seat belt and got out to help them. That's when I heard the sirens.

Many of us have experienced the sudden fear and anxiety brought on by being involved in an automobile accident. My own experience showed me why buckling up is important. After seeing the windshield and the injuries to the passengers of the other car, I felt lucky to have had my seat belt on.

According to the Missouri Department of Transportation, there were 670 deaths due to non-usage of seat belts. Teens 16 to 20 years old have the highest fatality rate

in motor vehicle crashes than any other age group. Seat belts reduce fatal risk of injury by 45 percent in passenger cars and 60 percent in trucks and SUVs. Moderate to critical injuries are reduced to 50 percent in passenger cars and 65 percent in trucks and SUVs. Since many college students fall into that age range, it is important that they be aware of their tendencies toward not buckling up. Many students have a feeling of invulnerability that gives them the idea that even if they get in a car wreck, they won't get hurt.

One such lucky student is Jennifer Butler, a senior mass communications major, who has been in four accidents.

"It's kind of hypocritical, but I think people should wear their seat belts," Butler said.

Butler was not wearing her seat belt in any of these wrecks. However, she thinks this seems to be a common problem among students. Although she was never hurt, she realizes how lucky she was not to get seriously injured.

"In two of the wrecks I was in, the cars were completely totaled," she said. "Both

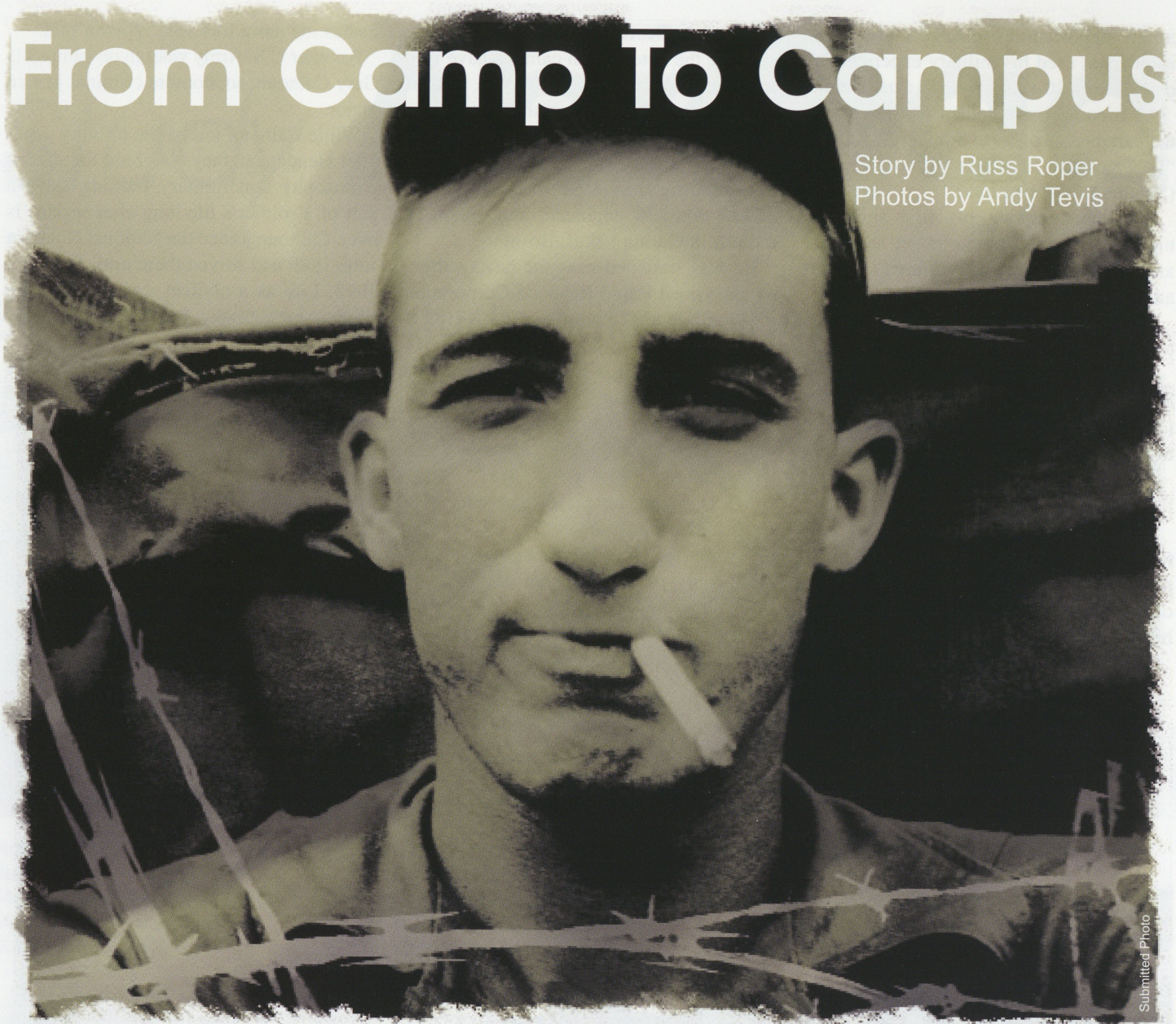
times we were hit by semi. The first time I was asleep in the back of the van, and the driver hit the semi, and we spun into a bridge. The second time the driver fell asleep at the wheel and went into the front of one."

Another reason to buckle up is because the law enforcement agencies have been becoming increasingly vigilant when it comes to seat belt violations. The nationwide program of "Click It or Ticket" has helped bring the percentage of auto passengers who use seat belts from 58 percent in 1994, to 75 percent in 2002. The program is designed as a wave program that uses television, radio and newspaper to reach its audience. Ticket fines for not wearing a seat belt can vary from \$10-\$200. Seat belts can not only help save lives, they can also keep drivers from having to give up the last 12 bucks in their pockets.

So unless you're in an airplane, where the 1976 Chevy Nova lap belts probably aren't going to do much anyway, buckle yourself in and keep from getting hurt.

From Camp To Campus

Story by Russ Roper
Photos by Andy Tevis



Military remains a way of life, even after service.

For many campuses around the country, non-traditional students are becoming more and more common.

These students have been active in the real world for a number of years. At Missouri Southern, many of the non-traditional students are also military veterans. While each of these veterans have their own experiences and reasons for furthering their education, they hold a common bond and an understanding of what others have experienced.

There are many reasons why individuals

join the military. One common reason is because their families and friends expected it of them.

Jim Henderson, senior general studies major, chose to join the military based on how he was raised.

"I had wanted to be a professional soldier ever since I can remember," Henderson said.

As a Vietnam veteran, Henderson served two tours between 1965 and 1967. In 1965, he went as an adviser with the First Military Assistance Command. When he

returned home, he assisted with training the 9th Infantry.

Henderson went back with the C Company, 9th Med., 9th Infantry, until he was released in 1967.

"After all that, I did not want to be a professional soldier anymore," Henderson said.

After getting out of the Army, he decided to go to school, and he began at Southern in the 1970s on his GI Bill. Henderson started working toward a degree in automotive technology, but dif-

ferent opportunities changed his plans. Henderson used his military experience to embark on a 20-year career as a paramedic.

"A friend of mine talked me into taking the paramedic course at Southern," he said. "It was only the second course they (Southern) had ever had."

But after working his first shift one night, he returned home to get ready for another one when he suffered a heart attack.

Once again he would find his way back to campus to pursue other dreams.

"I'd like to get into research, or work at historic sites," Henderson said. "I really love history and finding out the truth about things."

Henderson gives credit for his success to his military training.

"You got a job to do, and you know how to get it done," he said. "I think the discipline from military experience gives you a different viewpoint and an advantage over high school kids."

Henderson is scheduled to graduate from

Southern in December 2006.

While the veterans on campus have typically served the U.S. military, a student who has served in the British Army is also represented at Southern.

Geoff Wilson was a corporal in the British Army from 1995 to 2001. Wilson served with 36 engineers and spent 18 months in Gornia Vakuf, Bosnia.

He was stationed near the headquarters of the Armed Rapid Reaction Corporation for eight months in Kosovo. The ARRC is a multi-national force that includes 14 nations, including Great Britain, France and the United States.

Wilson moved to the Joplin area in 2001 with his family in order to be closer to his wife's family.

He is paying for his college education on his own because, unlike VA benefits available to U.S. veterans, the British Army only pays for further education in England.

"The military may have had something to do with it, but I think just being older

makes me more focused," Wilson said.

Another U.S. Army veteran on campus is Gary Calhoun, sophomore criminal justice major.

While Calhoun joined the military years after Henderson, they both hold the similar philosophy that military training stays a part of a soldier's life long after service is over. Calhoun joined the National Guard in June 1989 and served there until February 1993. Life as a civilian was not what he wanted, and he grew restless as time went on.

"I worked a couple of jobs and realized I wasn't going anywhere," Calhoun said.

"My dad is a Vietnam vet and after talking to him, I decided to go back in full time."

He enlisted for active duty in November 1995 to begin what he hoped would be a long career.

"I liked being in the Army, and I planned on retiring there," he said.

Calhoun served with the 53rd Quartermaster in Fort Hood, Texas, from



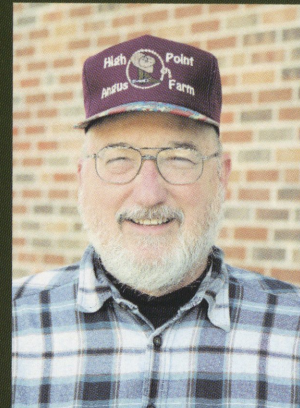
Submitted Photo

Jim Henderson traveled to Bin Luc village in the Mekong Delta in 1967. Henderson was released from active military service that same year.

Gary Calhoun, sophomore criminal justice major, said his military training has remained a big part of his life. He finished his military career in 2000 after an accident during active duty.



Jim Henderson, senior general studies major, served as a paramedic for 20 years after working in the military until 1967. Henderson enrolled at Southern to earn his degree.



1996 to 1998 and in the 59th Quartermaster in Fort Carson, Colorado, from 1998 to 2000.

It was during his active duty service that Carson became involved in deployments to Somalia and Honduras.

"Things like that make you really think about what is important, and those images really stay with you," he said.

Because of an unfortunate accident in 2000, Calhoun's military career came to an end, and he was a civilian once again. After recovering from his injuries, he

began the next phase of his life working as a truck driver.

The demands of the profession began to take their toll after about a year and a half. So, after meeting with the veteran's representatives at Fort Leonard Wood and discussing things with his wife, Calhoun decided that returning to school was the best option.

"I was tired of being away from my family all the time and really wanted to give them something better," Calhoun said.

He decided to pursue a degree in crimi-

nal justice. While he has no plans to become a police officer, he is interested in investigation or helping troubled youth.

"The main reason I chose this degree is because I wanted to do something for people," Calhoun said.

Like Henderson and other veterans, Calhoun gives the credit for his ability to accomplish goals to his military training.

"I think the military gives you a higher discipline," he said.

"I have a mission, and I have to accomplish it."



Submitted Photo

Henderson took full advantage of every opportunity for a quick break while serving in the Mekong Delta during Operation Greenleaf.

Surviving



The Switch

Story by Kristen Smith
Photos by Naoko Onoda

International students adjust to life at Southern.

Walking down the halls and sidewalks at Missouri Southern, flags from around the world can be seen around campus. Some flags wave proudly in the breeze near the front doors of Webster Hall, while others add color to the walls during international events. Each year University President Julio León selects a country toward which the student body focuses a fall semester theme.

As it strives toward keeping a global perspective in class and on campus, it's clear that Southern works hard to promote the rest of the world to its students.

While focusing attention on other countries, Southern also invites students from around the world to join the University's educational experience in Southwest Missouri. Each semester, Southern maintains an exchange enrollment of about 100 students from around the globe. This semester the enrollment was down to 83 students. International student adviser Stephanie Goad, said the enrollment is usually lower for spring semesters than in fall semesters.

Despite its focus to provide the best global experience for students, is Southern doing enough for the international students who join its campus each semester?

Students are invited to study through exchange programs at Southern for reasonable costs. After working out

the details of their trip, students who arrive at Southern are greeted with an orientation program the week before school starts. The information provides the students with campus housing rules, meal plans, schedules and campus tours. The class is offered to help with the adjustment to an American university.

The amount of information crammed into an orientation is limited, however. Yuki Morikawa is a senior exchange student from Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan. After attending orientation, she said it wasn't completely helpful, and that it included too much speaking.

Yuki has adjusted well to the change but, as with many international students, she finds eating in the cafeteria difficult.

"Every day there is something from the day before," Morikawa said. "The food isn't fresh, and it is not nutritious."

Her small figure is complemented with a



black top and her face is framed with dark hair. Despite her petite shape, she received many comments in reference to gaining weight from friends and family during Christmas break. After returning for a second semester, she enrolled in an aquacise class and said she thinks it is helping.

Hidden underneath Morikawa's bed in the campus apartments is a box of Japanese food from her mother. She has enough for about one meal a week, but with only the microwave to cook with, it's hard to prepare the food.

"If we could cook in the apartments or dorms it would help," Morikawa said.

Many schools have small kitchenettes on campus for students to use occasionally. At Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Blair-Shannon has a small kitchenette in the commons area that students can use with permission.

Tutty Faal is a sophomore attending Southern from Gambia, Africa. Faal agreed food is a problem.

Some students have suggested having rice available every day with meals would help many of the international students from around the world. Most countries eat rice with many meals and some with all three meals of the day.

The food service offered to students is making a change for the coming fall semester.

It will now offer students a meal on Sunday evenings and a late-night meal several times a week. In the past, students were not able to eat in the cafeteria on Sunday evenings.

Transportation is another common problem among international students. Many are from large cities and are used to having access to public transportation. The need for a car isn't necessary in many of these areas. However, that is not the case in this part of the country. Public transportation is limited and access to buses also isn't easy. With generosity from other students, international students can find rides for runs to Wal-Mart or Northpark Mall.

"I would really speak about the dorm," Edouard Dubois said. "There are no girls allowed unless they are escorted. We don't have these kinds of things in France."

Dubois is from Amiens, France, and is studying political science and the Japanese language.

He, along with Faal and Morikawa, said



Japanese student Yuki Morikawa is one of many International students who have difficulty getting used to the cafeteria food at Missouri Southern. She said serving rice would help.

they have no complaints about the instructors. They said they have been welcomed by many instructors at Southern. The instructors are interested in helping and getting to know all the international students.

The International Club offers opportunities for the students to interact and socialize through planning events.

"Mrs. Patricia Udell, who teaches intensive English, had a party for us to celebrate the Chinese New Year," Faal said.

Morikawa is fortunate to have a personal laptop from home to use for schoolwork and communicating with friends and family in Japan.

The small computer sits on a desk in her neatly organized room. The screen displays a Web page with Japanese text. Japanese symbols and English letters decorate the keyboard.

Many students are not as fortunate as Morikawa and must rely on the campus computers. As far as writing e-mails to friends and family, it can be difficult for many Asian students whose families do not



Several members of Southern's International Club prepare to go out to lunch on a bright and breezy Saturday afternoon.

speak English. Morikawa thinks the library should have a computer for these students so they can write in languages other than English. English hasn't been a big concern for many students.

Some take an English course along with other classes in their first semester. Dubois suggested it would be beneficial for Southern to offer an intensive English class one month before classes start in the fall. He said international students could then study the language in America before starting classes that require knowledge of English.

Study Abroad

By Kristen Smith

Students seek to study outside the United States.



Submitted photo

Name: Carol Hahn
Year: Sophomore
Major: Nursing and Spanish
Study Abroad Location: Santiago, Chile

"During the fall semester I went to Santiago, Chile, through the Missouri Southern Bilateral Exchange Program.

The program allows Southern students to pay room and board and tuition at MSSU and then receive these same benefits at the University of the Americas in Santiago.

Students pay for a regular semester at Southern, but they get to enjoy life, language and culture in another country. Living in Chile dramatically improved my Spanish conversation skills.

I believe that living in a foreign country is vital to understanding the culture and way of life in that country. This trip forced me to become independent and also helped me to be more patient and understanding with other cultures.

I am a Spanish and nursing major. In the future I would like to use my knowledge of other cultures to participate in medical missions to Hispanic countries."



Submitted photo

Name: Brande Davis
Year: Senior
Major: International Business, Spanish
Study Abroad Locations: Santiago, Chile
Leiden, the Netherlands, through the school of business.
Cartago, Costa Rica, through the science department.

"I would definitely encourage any student to take advantage of the travel abroad opportunities that MSSU offers. They are once in a life time opportunities that will no doubt change you hopefully for the better by expanding the mind and learning about what's out there and making you more comfortable in foreign situation, and with new people.

You will learn so much about who you are as you adventure out on your own. If attempting to learn a new language the immersion plan is definitely the fastest and most beneficial way of going about it. It is a very worthwhile journey that will never be forgotten and will be cherished forever for the memories and growth that took place."



Submitted photo

Name: Liz Scheurich
Year: Senior
Major: Public Relations
Study Abroad Locations: Paris, France, and Vienna, Austria.

"A memorable event in my life was traveling to Vienna, Austria, for a week with a group of Missouri Southern students in my Global Journalism class.

We experienced the city of Vienna, its hotels, food, culture and its people. I learned so much about the culture in a small amount of time.

Every student should take advantage of what MSSU has to offer with studying abroad. It is an unforgettable experience that might not ever be available to them again.

I also took a spring break trip to Paris, France, through the communications department. This, too, was a great trip, and I learned so much from the conferences I attended.

Vienna was my favorite, and I think about my trip every day.

I know there is something there calling me back."

Life Outside the Halls

Column by Kristen Smith
Photos by Naoko Onoda



Apartments offer affordable living costs in Joplin.

Small rooms, luck-of-the-draw roommates, cafeteria food and overused furniture ... Ah, the joys of living in the residence halls. It's not bad during the first couple of years at college.

Then comes the itch for students to get out on their own, to cook food they will actually eat, and to have their own set of rules.

Missouri Southern is different in that most of the students attending the University are commuters.

Of about 5,000 students enrolled, only 400 live on campus.

Because the cost of living in Joplin is low in comparison to most college towns, students can take advantage by getting

more for their money in apartment rentals.

This time last year, I got the itch. I was finally staring at the end of my on-campus life.

After spending a year in Blair-Shannon at Southwest Missouri State University, then two years on campus at Southern, I'd had enough.

So the apartment hunt began, and it quickly turned into a chore.

There is much to look into as far as rent, bills, food and gas.

Sitting down and carefully assessing how much is spent in the residence halls is vital to finding a better, or equal, deal in an apartment.

Before looking at a few apartments near

Southern, keep in mind the cost of living in the residence halls. Students living in the newest residence hall on campus, East Hall, are paying \$5,280 a year for room and board.

Take that money and divide it by 12 months, and \$440 a month can go toward an apartment. Renting an apartment requires a deposit when signing the contract that is often refundable once the lease is up.

Also, when looking at the rent prices, remember that a roommate can cut the rent in half.

As far as bills go, that's up to you. Electric and water bills vary depending on the usage for the month, and extras like



Residents of Royal Orleans make use of the recreational facilities located in the complex.

cable, long distance calling and Internet are optional services.

Empire Electric, Joplin's electric company, has shown the average two-bedroom apartment runs a bill of \$65-\$75 a month. Water runs about \$15-\$20 a month through Missouri American Water for a Joplin resident, or the Webb City Water Department, for a Webb City resident.

Cable One is the cable television company for Joplin and Webb City. Residents can pay anywhere from \$17.95 for basic cable, up to \$67 for digital cable packages and can receive Internet through Cable One at additional costs.

Southwestern Bell provides residents with basic telephone services for about \$18 a month and now offers DSL Internet at \$30 a month after buying the home set-up kit. Information on the telephone and Internet services can be found at www.sbc.com.

The residence hall does have its advantages. Students' money is directly going to the University for food, rent, electricity, phone, Internet and cable. It's true students don't have to worry about these bills each month, but are they getting their money's worth?

Amber Hemphill, junior secondary education major and student assistant in the residence life office at Southern, said living on campus offers students the opportunity to meet many other students.

She also said being close to campus

allows students to get involved when events on campus happen.

For those who are starting their own apartment hunt, there are three apartment complexes in the Joplin and Webb City area that may prove helpful in the search.

Royal Orleans

Located behind the residence halls of Missouri Southern's campus, Royal Orleans provides students with a close commute to class.

One- and two-bedroom apartments are available with kitchen, dining and living rooms. One-bedroom apartments rent for \$367 per month, and rent for a two-bedroom unit with two bathrooms is \$462 per month. Students also have access to a swimming pool and tennis courts.

"The main benefit is the proximity to the school," said Lisa Jenkins, assistant manager of Royal Orleans. "We work well with the students as far as lease agreements."

Contact Royal Orleans at 781-5440 or visit the Cohen Esrey Web site for information at www.cohenesrey.com.

Atlantis II

Webb City is also a part of Joplin to consider when looking for a space to rent. Atlantis II Apartments are 3.5 miles from campus, located behind May's Drug Warehouse just off Madison Street (North Range Line Road).

One Month Breakdown

Atlantis II

Two-Bedroom

Apartment

Rent	\$495
Water	\$18
Electric	\$65
Cable	\$18
Internet	\$30
Phone	<u>\$18</u>

Total \$644

* Food and gas not included

One- and two-bedroom apartments are available with large kitchen and living room space. The two-bedroom units include two bedrooms and two bathrooms, one a master bedroom and bath. The majority of the apartments available are two-bedroom and rent for \$495 per month.

The kitchen and dining area also has a large closet with washer and dryer hookups. The apartment complex offers tenants a clubhouse with exercise equipment, a basketball court, a small playground, sand volleyball court and several laundry facilities.

"It's less expensive to live in an apartment," said Megan Paule, junior English major at Southern and Atlantis II resident. "I feel more grown up and independent."

Government assisted living apartments are also available in Atlantis II for \$335 per month, but require that not all tenants in the apartment are full-time students. An application must be filled out in advance.

For information contact Atlantis II Apartments at 673-1444.



Atlantis II Apartments in Webb City provide tenants with one-and two bedroom apartments.



The Plaza provides tenants with optional poolside apartments located in the center court.

The Plaza

One of the newest apartment locations in Joplin offers students an upscale living experience. The Plaza Apartments are located east of the Range Line Wal-Mart in Joplin.

One-bedroom apartments rent for \$430 a month. Two-bedroom apartments, with a master bedroom and two baths, rent for \$595 per month.

Optional monthly extras include paying for vaulted ceilings, pets or an apartment located near the pool in the center court. Tenants have access to a community building including a fitness center, business center, lounge and a media room with movie-theater seating for 12.

The Plaza is located three miles from Southern's campus and offers students a short commute to class. For information visit The Plaza at 1715 Rex Avenue in Joplin or call the office at 437-2654.

These are just three examples of what is available for students in the area. Explore the Joplin area and see what apartment life has to offer.

Box Properties also owns several apartment complexes throughout Joplin and Webb City. Contact the manager of Box Properties at 781-4183.

Investing 101

Story by Kayla Rinker



Who says you have to have a career to start investing? Experts provide tips to get started on a financial portfolio.

If full-time college student Jane Doe brings home \$450 a month working at McDonald's, how much of that money should she invest in the stock market?

Most college students may answer with, "None. Ms. Doe doesn't make near enough money to do anything with it besides pay the bills. Plus, she doesn't understand how the stock market works anyway so she would probably lose every penny of her hard-earned cash."

Experts in the financial field, however, say this way of thinking is simply not true. They say students should start investing their money right now and not wait until 20 years down the road.

Recent Missouri Southern graduate and former Financial Management Association Club president, Travis Sainsbury, has been investing since he was 18 years old. He worked full-time for Wal-Mart right out of high school and began investing 2 to 3 percent from his paycheck every year in the company's stock. He now has accounts with the online brokerage service, E*Trade Financial.

"Start as soon as you can," he said. "The sooner you start the more you make. You are never too young."

Though many college students agree it is

smart to start putting back money for the future, many choose not to because they are limited on cash while paying for college.

Dr. Richard Rawlins, associate professor of business at Missouri Southern, said the amount of money placed in the market is

deposits. You will make \$117,000."

He said many students decide to wait to invest because they think they will have money later.

"The truth is that you still find just as many ways to spend it whether you are 20 or 40," Rawlins said.

The first step after an individual decides to start investing is to develop a written personal financial plan. The plan contains specific long-term goals, like when a person wants to retire and exactly how much money he or she would like to have built up before the year of retirement. The plan also includes other more short-term goals like making a down payment on a house in five years, paying for a child's college education and planning a vacation.

"Make a detailed plan, update it, and stick to it," said Travis Zarechi, financial adviser for Waddell & Reed Financial Services.

Another thing both new and experienced investors must do is diversify.

"In other words, 'Don't put all your eggs in one basket,'" Rawlins said. "Diversify. Put your money into five, six ... up to 20 companies."

One way to diversify finances is to put money into a mutual fund. A mutual fund

Research Web sites



irrelevant, as long as it's being invested.

"Start right now even if it's only \$20 or \$25 a month," Rawlins said.

"Say a student puts in \$25 a month. A stock will make you at least a 9-percent average rate of return. If you do that every month for 40 years, you will make 480

Terms List

Bond - A corporation's note acknowledging indebtedness for a certain amount and promising to pay interest at a given rate on that amount as well as to pay back the principal on a certain date.

Dividend - A payment by a company equally divided among its stockholders.

Dow Jones average - The average price of selected stocks, used as an indicator of the stock market's performance.

CDs - Certificates of deposit.

Investment - The use of money to make more money.

IRA (Individual Retirement Account.) - An IRA is a savings account. A person can deposit a

specified amount of income each year and the deposits are tax deductible for that year. The money is not taxed until the money is withdrawn when the person retires.

Mutual Fund - An investment company that continually offers new stock and redeems outstanding shares on demand.

Portfolio - Made up of what an investor is invested in.

Stock - Ownership shares in a company.

401k Plan - Enables an employee to save money for retirement in a tax-deferred manner. Many 401k plans also have a matching provision where an employer will match a specific amount that the employee contributes.

pools an investor's money together with everyone else's money in the mutual fund and invests the entire pot into as many as 60 different companies.

"Any new person needs to start in mutual funds and at least own stock in 10 to 15 companies in order to spread out your risk," Zarechi said. "What a mutual fund does is it lowers your risk because all 60

stocks have to go out of business at the same time for an investor to lose money."

One drawback to a mutual fund is that usually there is a fee required. At Waddell & Reed Financial Services, it costs \$50 to open a mutual fund and at least \$25 a month to keep it going.

Losing money is a major concern among college students who do not have the

money to lose. With the current horror stories surrounding the fall of companies like Enron and WorldCom, it's no wonder potential investors are hesitant. Rawlins said too many people invested in Enron without knowing enough about the company. He said it is important to check a company's financial statements and annual reports before putting any money into it.

Quick Tips from Financial Adviser Travis Zarechi

1. Start now!
2. Pay yourself first. First 10 percent of income should go into retirement.
3. Be consistent and let it become habit.
4. Buy low, sell high.
5. Don't overwhelm yourself with debt. Buy within your means.
6. Every time you get a raise, use half to better your life right now and the other half put into your retirement fund. You will never miss it.
7. Diversify, diversify, diversify!
8. If you start to lose a little money, keep it in there. The market will go back up. It goes up and down all the time.
9. Time is more important than money.
10. The longer you wait the more it takes.

"Don't invest in something you don't know anything about," he said. "You can even invest in McDonald's because you know they make a good Big Mac. Use that as a starting point."

As far as stock market fluctuation, that is normal.

"Don't worry about the long-term market," Sainsbury said. "It will have its ups and downs. It does that all the time. Don't take it out, just move it around a little. Take from stocks and put in bonds."

Another important tip to remember when deciding where to invest money is to ignore hearsay about a stock with a "hot, phenomenal return." Investors need to make more financial decisions with their heads rather than with their hearts.

"We are emotional," Rawlins said. "Investment shouldn't be emotional. I guess I would say to try to be systematic and automatic rather than emotional. If you buy a company and it has gone down to nothing, don't worry; it'll come back."



Financial Management Association

Another way to learn more about investment opportunities and strategies is through Missouri Southern's Chapter of the Financial Management Association. Former FMA president Travis Sainsbury said members put in about \$25 each, they pool the money together in an e-trade account, and make group decisions on where they would like to invest.

"Right now, they have about \$2,800 in five or six stocks," Sainsbury said. "We use it as a learning tool, so we try to invest wisely."

Dr. Richard Rawlins, FMA club adviser, said students are able to take their money out with interest after they graduate. However, he said members do not have to put money in the market if they don't want to.

"We don't have dues," he said. "Anyone can belong, you just put money in when you want a say in what is done with the money."

Besides investing, the club also invites business professionals to come and speak to the group regarding different topics related to finance and investment.

Inside the

SPOOK LIGHT

Story by Chad Hunter

Illustration by Randall Georges

Spook Light continues to mystify people of all ages.

It all started at dinner. The women sat around the table talking and joking. They had come to Joplin to see a sorority sister who used to go to school with them, but they had a question to ask as well.

"Can we go see the Spook Light?" asked Ashley Easterling, senior teacher education major at Southwest Missouri State University. "We heard about it from a friend in Springfield who came down to see it."

After getting directions, they took off. Riding along on their way to an area called Devil's Promenade, they drove around curves crowded with overhanging trees. A sickle-shaped moon lit the dirt roads along the way toward their destination, East 40 Road. Better known as Old Spook Light Road, East 40 is a quarter-mile long dirt and gravel lane packed down with the tire tracks of hundreds of people who take the journey to catch a glimpse of the Hornet Spook Light. The women stared out at the horizon, over the top of a hill, and a small area between the trees began to brighten and a brilliant, yellow light darted over the hilltop and raced down the hill. Several high-pitched screams later, the women started talking. They had just got a pretty good glimpse of the Spook Light.

"When we went, I didn't think I would end up seeing anything," said Allyson Ladd, senior education major at SMSU. "Then I thought if we do see something, it would just be this little hazy light. What I saw was definitely not some little hazy light."

Many people report that the Spook Light



looks as though it is made of fire and that it changes colors. People have reported seeing it change from yellow to blue or red.

"At one point, it turned red while we were watching it," Ladd said.

"I've never seen anything like it," Easterling said.

The Spook Light is the center of many area legends. Almost everyone, from high school teens to scientists, have their own ideas of what it is and where it comes from. Ideas vary from clouds of swamp gas to the spirit of a long-dead miner. The only thing they seem to agree on is that no one knows for sure what it is.

"I have no clue what the Spook Light could be," Easterling said. "I've heard all about the legends, but I'm not sure I believe those."

"After I went and saw it, I went and did a little research on it," Ladd said.

"All the things the 'experts' say don't make any sense to me. I don't believe the people who say it's the reflection of car headlights driving on the highway. The highway is too far off, and lots of people were driving by and we never saw anything from their cars."

The interest the Spook Light has drawn from people over the years cannot be denied. Internet sites, articles and even television shows have put their focus on the Spook Light, but no one has found an answer.

"I thought it was really interesting," Ladd said.

"Things that people can't explain make me wonder what they are and why they can't be explained."

The Spook Light has been reported by word of mouth as far back as the 1800s. According to Joplin tennis coordinator Annie Clarkson, 49, during the 1970s, the Spook Light was a great place to bring a date. Clarkson has been a resident of the area for more than 30 years and has gone to see the Spook Light on numerous occasions.

"Back then, it was a great place to go because it had all the elements of fear and it was a great make-out spot," Clarkson said.

She said she always heard the best time to go was on a cold, dark night, and the worst time was a full moon, but that she never experienced any difference between the two. She has several stories about her

experiences, and those of her friends, while watching the mysterious light.

"The scariest time I went, I was with three other teenagers and we were sitting on the road," Clarkson said. "All of a sudden, a light appeared in our back window and started coming toward us. My friend started the car and began to take off. The light followed right behind us for about 300 yards then disappeared."

Another story Clarkson remembers involved friends who had their car damaged.

"I know this story to be true; I saw the car afterward," Clarkson said.

"My friends were sitting on the road when they saw the Spook Light come toward them. Everyone says that lights or noise will cause the light to disappear. My friends decided to see how close it would come, so they tried not to make any sound or turn on any lights. Pretty soon the light was right on the hood of their car. They started to get scared, and the driver honked the horn. This caused all the windows in

the car to shatter, and the Spook Light completely disappeared."

Like Easterling and Ladd, Clarkson does not believe the Spook Light is either a ball of gas or headlights. Clarkson adds that she doesn't believe it will ever be explained to everyone's satisfaction.

"I've been witnessing it for over 25 years," Clarkson said. "It dances, it thinks, it's like a spirit."

Clarkson said she doesn't necessarily believe in ghosts, but she does think there are many mysteries that can't be explained.

"It's unpredictable," she said. "It never mattered where you sat on the road, because you don't know where it would come out."

Whether or not an answer will be found for the questionable origins of the Spook Light, Ladd, Easterling and Clarkson all share something in common with many people who travel and live in the area. They have all seen something they cannot explain, and all three say that is fine with them.

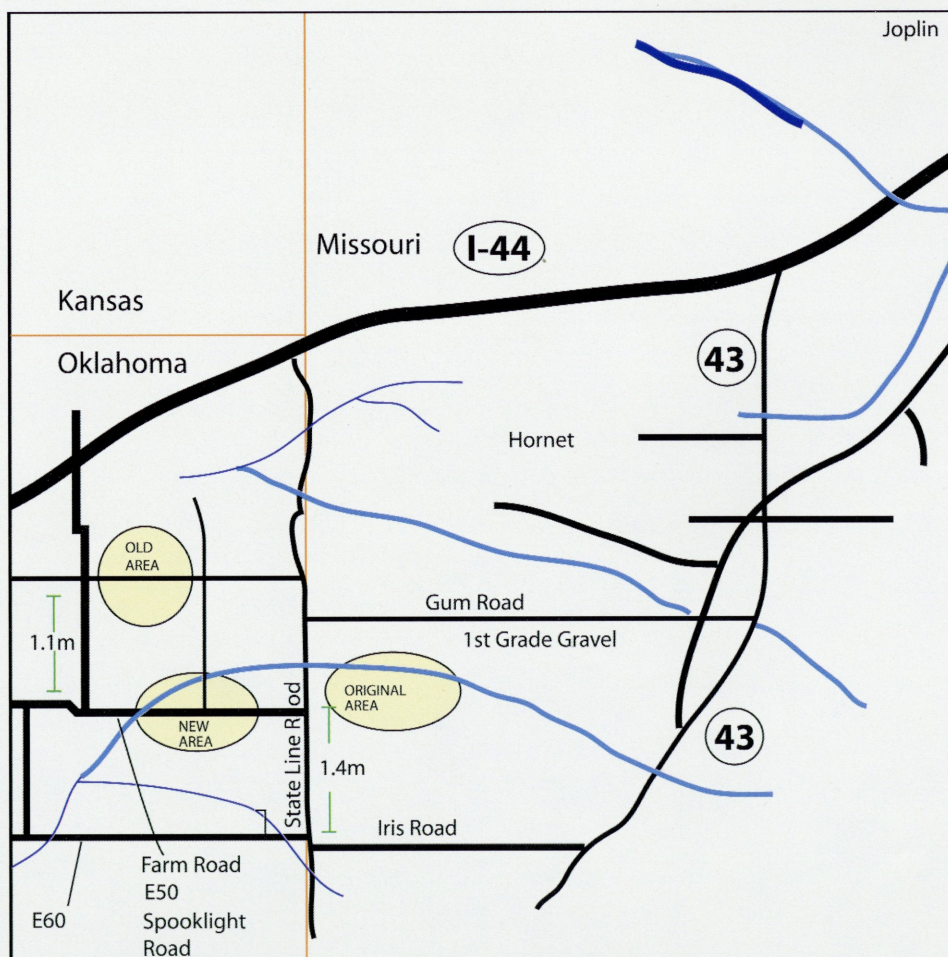
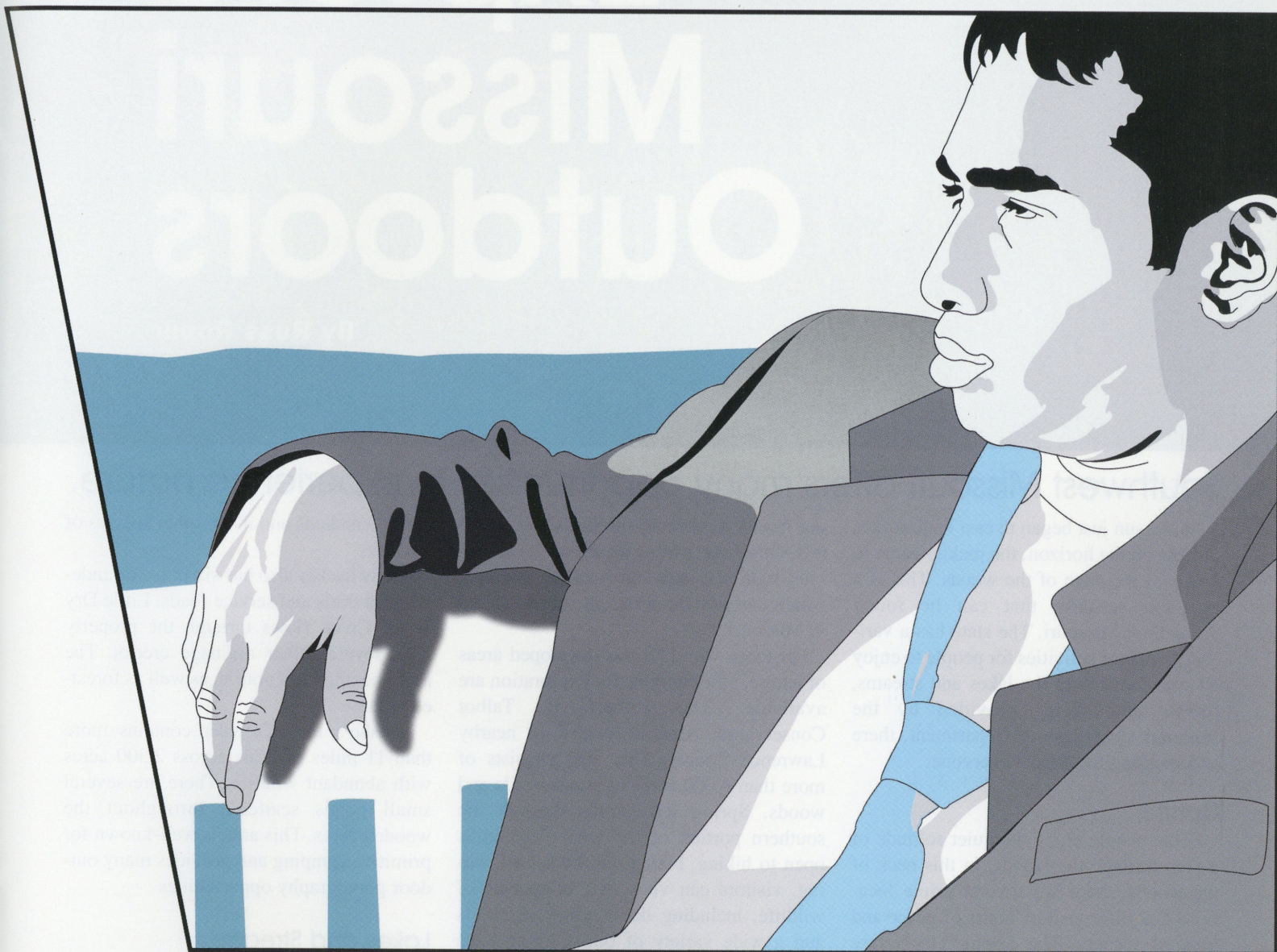


Illustration based on a map at www.mysterylights.com.

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Explore Missouri Outdoors

By Russ Roper

Southwest Missouri offers many opportunities to experience nature.

As the sun just began to cast its first rays of light on the horizon, the pickup came to a stop at the edge of the woods. This is a common scenario that can be found throughout Missouri. The state has a variety of outdoor activities for people to enjoy all year long. With the lakes and streams, forests and events provided by the Missouri Conservation Department, there is something for almost everyone.

Nature

Some people enjoy the quiet solitude of a path through the woods. In this neck of the woods, there are several prime locations that offer visitors hours of peace and tranquil scenery. The Springfield Nature Center, just west of Highway 65, has developed trails and scenic river views that provide locals with a firsthand experience of nature. Inside the center there is an area with blinds set to view the different varieties of waterfowl that visit the ponds. A foot bridge across one section of the pond gives visitors the opportunity to feed the fish that school around the bridge's supports. Vending machines have been placed on the bridge for convenience and contain food specifically designed for the fish. The main building at the center contains view-

ing rooms to observe the birds and squirrels. Other sections of the center have various exhibits and information stations, which describe the different species found in Missouri.

For those who like less-developed areas of nature, other options for exploration are available. The Robert E. Talbot Conservation Area is located in nearby Lawrence County. This area consists of more than 4,000 acres of ponds, trails and woods. Spring River runs through the southern portion of the area. With trails open to hiking, biking and horseback riding, visitors can view several species of wildlife, including deer, turkey, squirrels and a wide variety of birds. There have also been sightings of bald eagles around the area.

Talbot has three trails that range from 2.1 to 5.8 miles. All of the trails are considered easy to moderately easy to walk, with parking areas surrounding the property.

There are other areas containing multi-use trails. These include Bushwhacker Lake in Barton and Vernon Counties, which covers 4,457 acres and includes a 157-acre lake. There are also several smaller ponds that provide fishing opportunities. This area is home to deer, turkey,

prairie chickens and many other species of wildlife.

Bushwhacker also has six miles of undeveloped trails and service roads. Little Dry Wood Creek flows through the property with several other drainage creeks. The area encompasses prairie, as well as forested land.

Neosho's Fort Crowder contains more than 11 miles of trails across 2,300 acres with abundant wildlife. There are several small ponds scattered throughout the wooded acres. This area is well-known for primitive camping and provides many outdoor photography opportunities

Lakes and Streams

Missouri's anglers have a large quantity of watersheds available. Lake Stockton and Pomme de Terre are home to some of the best bass fishing in the state. They also provide opportunities for boating, camping and swimming. The tributaries around the lakes offer catfish, crappie and white bass fishing. The Corp of Engineers has paid camp areas with facilities, boat ramps and fishing docks. Stockton offers opportunities for walleye fishing, while at Pomme de Terre, anglers can try their hand at muskie.

"I fish as much as I can, especially when



File Photo

the walleye are in the lake,” said Jack Essary, Taneyville, Missouri.

In the southern portion of the state, Lake Taneycomo and Table Rock Lake offer the chance for fishermen to catch bass, large lake trout, crappie and walleye. Boating, camping and swimming are also a favorite in the area.

Smaller lakes such as Bushwhacker, Kellogg and those on Shawnee Trail C.A. are excellent areas for easy access to the water. They are prime locations for people with children. The areas can also provide an eventful day of picnics and relaxing. Joplin resident David Lawson has visited many of the local areas with his two sons, Chris, 7, and Kyler, 6.

“I usually take the boys down to Wildcat Park,” Lawson said. “If I don’t have much time, I can get there in a couple of minutes, that way they get to fish.”

Wildcat Park is located just south of Joplin on Main Street and is included in the area set aside for the new Joplin Nature Center.

Southwest Missouri also has a number of trout parks and hatcheries for those interested in stream fishing for trout or touring the hatcheries. These parks and hatcheries have special regulations that govern the limits of catch and release. A number of

these areas require special permits and have bait restrictions on different sections of the streams.

There are several streams and rivers in the area that provide fishing, swimming and boating. The Elk River, located near Pineville, is a popular area during the warmer months for camping and canoeing. Canoe rental businesses are common along the river.

Hunting

A popular saying in this area around the middle of November is, “I’m headed for the deer woods.”

Deer hunting is a major priority for many residents.

“I don’t think there is anything better than being out there deer hunting,” Essary said.

“What I like most is sitting in the tree stand before light, and just waiting to see what happens.”

He, and many Missouri residents, feel the same way. While there are other hunting seasons open during deer season, deer hunting rates most important to many in this area. Deer hunting in Missouri provides opportunities for bow hunters, muzzleloaders (Davy Crockett’s rifle), and conventional firearms.

Deer camp is one of the most enjoyable aspects of deer season for area hunters.

“I like deer camp. It’s a fun place to be,” Essary said. “I like sitting around the campfire listening to everybody’s lies.”

While some areas of public land are only open to specific types of weapons, there is plenty of land open to all. Parks open to archery and muzzleloaders, like Shawnee Trail C.A. and Bushwhacker Lake C.A., offer many hunting opportunities.

Areas open to all hunters, such as Four Rivers C.A., Talbot C.A., and Fiery Forks C.A., offer good conditions for deer hunting.

“My brother and I go to Bushwhacker to bow hunt,” Lawson said. “We just really like that area.”

Deer is not the only game in town. Missouri hunters also pursue other game, like wild turkey. Many parks are open to turkey hunters, although during the spring portion of the season, game birds can only be hunted until 1 p.m.

“I’m getting Chris ready for his first turkey hunt,” Lawson said. “My brother is taking his son, and I’m taking Chris on the youth hunt.”

The Missouri Department of Conservation provides youth-only deer and turkey hunts.



File Photo

Deer hunting is one of many types of hunting found in Missouri. It provides opportunities for bow hunters, muzzleloaders and other firearms.

Hog hunting is another kind of hunting that provides a real challenge to its participants. Wild boars have become quite a problem in Missouri and the Missouri Department of Conservation requested that hunters specifically target these animals.

"A friend of mine killed one the other day," Essary said.

"Man, they are getting thick around here."

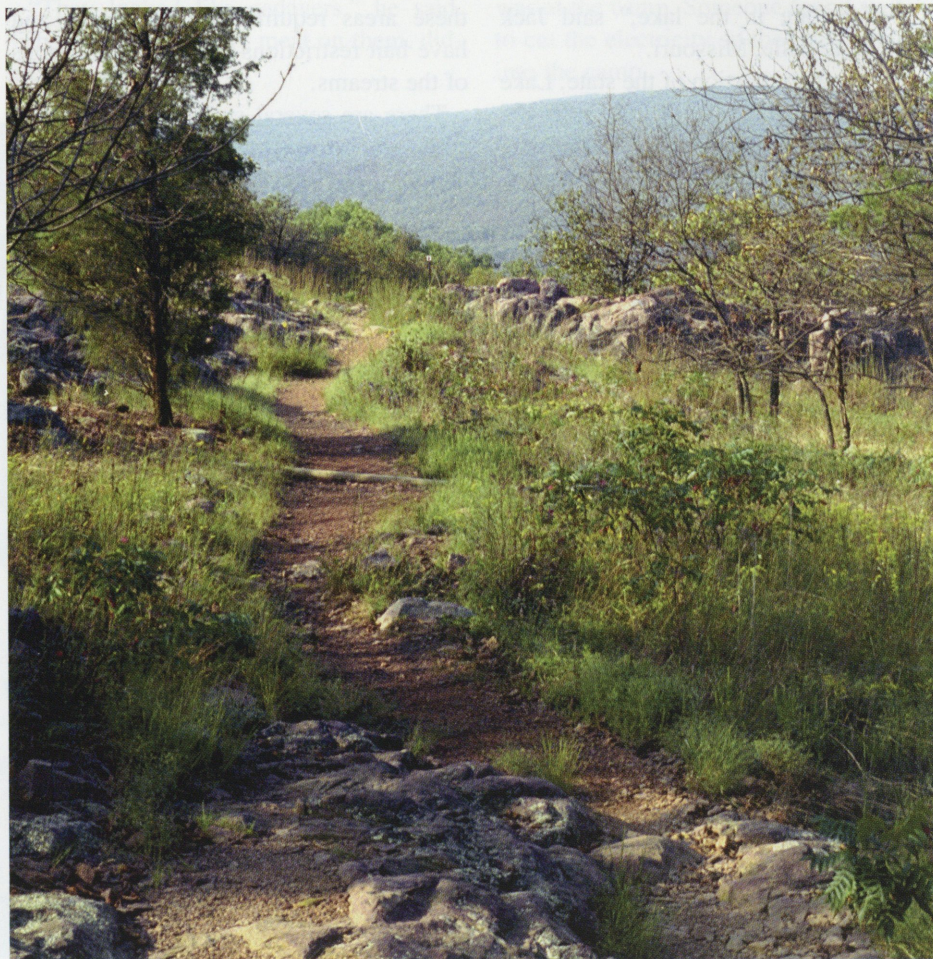
Since feral hogs are not native to Missouri their impact on the ecosystem can be devastating.

There are less dangerous animals to hunt than wild boar. People hunt squirrel, rabbit, dove, quail and waterfowl in Missouri.

"I like rabbit and squirrel hunting, but mostly rabbit," said Kay Henderson, sophomore general studies major. "We go to Flag Springs down by Powell, Missouri. It's a nice wilderness area and has a shooting range."

Bushwhacker and areas around Stockton are popular for duck and goose hunters. Limits for geese, especially snow, blue, and Ross, are liberal, with no limit between January 26 and April 30.

For information on any of the areas, contact the local Missouri Department of Conservation office or visit online at www.conservations.state.mo.us.



File Photo

Trails lined with beautiful foliage can be found throughout the rolling hills of Missouri.



A Parallel Universe

Story by Brandon Nivens
Illustration by Jason Wakefield

It's not just a one-player computer game anymore.

The trees hid the sun as the soldiers quietly surveyed an area of densely foliated jungle. Three teams stalked slowly through the woods and kept a keen ear open for nearby enemies. There was movement ahead on the hillside, and the team leader shouted an order to open fire.

A hailstorm of bullets followed the command. The enemy was destroyed before it even had a chance to defend itself. The teams proceeded to the next checkpoint, where more enemies waited. Feeling a bit braver, the teams picked up the pace and decided to run toward their next objective.

Almost to the checkpoint, one team member fell dead. Then another fell. Soon the entire team was gone. Game over. Little did the team know that an enemy sniper was watching the entire time from a hidden location upon a distant hill.

The gamers sat back and took a deep

breath of air to calm their nerves. They will be more cautious in their next attempt to conquer this jungle level.

None of these players are real Marines. They are participants in what is known as local area network gaming. LAN gaming occurs when groups of people get together and connect their computers over a Local Area Network.

Once the computers are able to talk to each other they can play team battles or free-for-all games.

Ray Goepfert, storeowner of Joplin's Game-Lab, has been in business a little more than a year. He first began by having LAN-Fests at his house.

"I'd invite eight or nine friends over and play games for the entire weekend," Goepfert said.

Among the multitude of network compatible games available right now, Battlefield 1942 is one of the most popular in the Joplin gaming community.

Goepfert described it as a World War II combat simulator.

"You can start as a foot-troop and then get in an airplane and fly, or you can drive a tank," he said. "Just about every popular war vehicle from the World War II era is in it."

Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six series and Ghost Recon, both modern day squad-based combat, are also among his favorites.

Both games can be realistic. Most times, if players get hit once they are gone and out of the battle.

Different from playing over the Internet, LAN gaming has the advantage of being able to hear opponents scream across the room after they are shot. Teamwork is also a big facet.

"The game Ghost Recon is not a very popular online game," Goepfert said. "It is a game where at a LAN-Fest it's all about teamwork. You can hear people

calling out their targets. You know, 'Watch your back, there's somebody coming out of those bushes.' It's something that you can't do online, unless you use secondary software that allows you to use voice chat on the Internet. That can be a big hassle."

Jason Devore, a 17-year-old Joplin High School student, organized his first LAN party with the help of a few friends from his computer networking class. He gained access to a local Presbyterian church community center and welcomed more than 50 gamers to his LAN party. He gained sponsorship for his party by submitting his LAN party information to Best Buy and other businesses.

"The main reasons people come to a LAN party is to play in a low-latency environment," Devore said.

"It's really just like a party, only with computers. You get something to eat and drink. You can also converse with other gamers. It's mainly a social gathering. Some people from last night's game came from Arkansas and other surrounding areas. They would have never met the other players present by normal means. It's

It's really just like a party, only with computers.

also a way to get new friends."

Another interesting characteristic of LAN gaming is the huge age difference between the oldest and youngest players. The Game Lab has had gamers as young as 13, though Goepfert believes 13 is probably the lowest appropriate age group due to the content of most games.

"At our LAN-Fests we have players age 16 to probably 30 something," he said. "We've had even older. We've had 40-year-olds play. The age is very variable. Anybody who likes the game can play."

Other than no alcohol and excessive

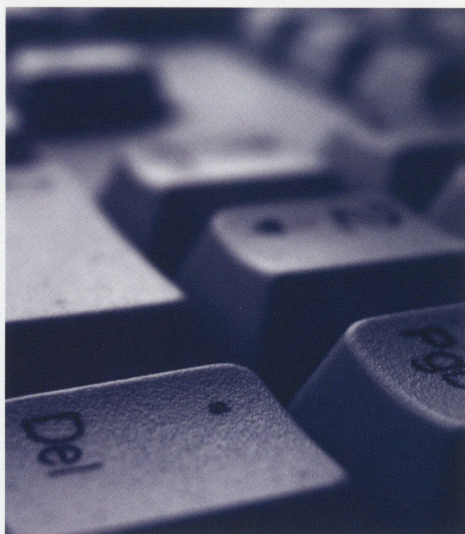
rowdiness, there are no particular rules at a LAN-Fest outside of the game rules themselves. Each person who sets up the LAN server can decide who can do what, where to enter the game, and other various game rules. The game host determines what game map, level, maximum number of players, and other variables of the game. The host also set-up whether or not the game is accessible over the Internet so people outside of the store can play online.

Gamers start playing as soon as their computer detect the network server. Most games allow players to jump into the middle of a game already in progress.

A 700-megahertz computer is the slowest computers that has been used at a LAN-Fest. Many people use 800-megahertz laptops, and anything faster than that works the best.

If gamers are playing on a slower computer, they are probably going to have trouble with some of the more graphic intensive games. If they can't play because of this, the store offers free access to the Internet, so people can browse the Web or play online games.





Players must bring their own computers equipped with a network adapter and a network cable. Gamers are also encouraged to bring their own power strips. A computer monitor, mouse, keyboard and headphones are also required.

The only thing players are not likely to have is the network adapter, which usually costs between \$10-\$50.

"We've found that a \$20 network adapter works fine," Goepfert said.

Some LAN games can last as long as eight or nine hours. A typical LAN-Fest starts on Friday around 6 p.m. and continues until dawn the next morning. The second day, Saturday, gaming starts around 2 p.m. and continues until dawn, or a little later.

"Whenever we do a LAN-Fest, it's a fest, man," Goepfert said. "We go non-stop all weekend long and have just enough time to get some sleep on Sunday, before going to work on Monday. We only do them every other month so that people won't get burnt out. We want to keep it exciting and have people looking forward to them."

The LAN-Fest costs about \$10 for the weekend, which is used to cover Goepfert's time there and some electricity.

Players will participate in a game for three or four hours before they need to take a break. During a break, some will chat about what has happened in the games.

"There are all kinds of stories," Goepfert said.

"Yesterday the story was about Ghost Recon. There were two teams, one versus the other, on a jungle map. The teams



spread out, and three of us went one way while everybody else went the other way. Everybody else died instantly. The three of us remaining got up and saw somebody poking out from around a hill. One guy had a machine gun with no accuracy, and he started opening fire. All of us started firing, and there was all this smoke, ash and flashes coming from this hill. The enemies just kept walking into our gunfire and falling down dead. There are really too many stories to count."

Devore remembers at one LAN party where they had a video projector hooked up to a computer so everyone could watch the final competition of Half-Life Counterstrike.

"The first round a terrorist planted a bomb, which was unreachable except by one man on the counter-terrorist team," he said.

"There was only one terrorist left, yet the bomb went off, and the terrorists won the match. Strategy is very important in the game."

As technology grows every second, the LAN community will likely continue to grow along with it.

Though gamers everywhere will continue to connect, Goepfert predicts there are many changes in store for the gaming world.

"I think the future of network gaming will be all wireless," he said. "People will be able to bring their computers, which will all be pretty small, and they won't have to hook up anything or do much configuration at all. They'll just hit a button that says detect network and it will work. If everybody was wealthy enough, we could theoretically do that right now. As far as the games go, I don't see much change."

When it comes to the future, Devore said one thing is for sure.

"The gaming industry can expect to see more and more people trying LAN gaming and getting hooked on it," he said.

Popular LAN Games

- **Half-Life Counterstrike**

- **Ghost Recon**

- **Battlefield 1942**

- **War Craft III**

- **Rainbow Six**

- **Quake III**

- **Red Alert 2**

- **UnReal Tournament 2003**

- **Return to Castle Wolfenstein**

- **Star Craft**

- **Brood Wars**

Under the KNIFE

Story by Kayla Rinker
Illustration by Randall Georges



Many women look to surgery as the only hope.

Light fixtures whizzed in front of her as the nurse pushed the gurney toward the operating room. The patient's father, grandfather and grandmother walked alongside her down the hospital's cream-colored corridor. Her grandmother's short heels clunked hard against the tile floor in perfect rhythm.

Her grandfather stopped first, too emotional to go any further. He utterly detested the idea of his 19-year-old grandbaby going completely under anesthesia for surgery, and he made sure everybody knew it.

Her grandmother stopped a few minutes later.

"I love you, but I had better go back and check on your grandpa," she said. "Men ... they are supposed to be the strong ones."

Her dad continued to make the journey with her, holding her hand and attempting to soothe her anxiety while they made their way to the surgery room door.

"Everything is going to be all right, Lily," he said. "Everything is going to be all right."

The shakiness in his voice hinted that his words were more for his own comfort than for hers. Lily Stockton smiled faintly at her dad while the nurse wheeled her into the cold, bright operating room.

Three women were already stationed in the room awaiting Stockton's expected arrival: the anesthesiologist, another nurse and the doctor. Stockton's eyes wandered across the room and fell upon a metal tray. There she noticed many different surgical

tools including a scalpel and a pair of medical scissors. She quickly shifted her focus to something — anything else and let out a deep breathe.

"Lily, I'm going to ask you to sit up so I can mark where the incisions are going to be," said Dr. Jane Garrison, plastic surgeon at St. John's Medical Center, Springfield.

Stockton, wearing nothing more than a pair of socks and a large sheet of thin paper, sat up from her gurney and looked down at her size 34DD chest for the last

“Did I do the right thing? After that day I knew I most definitely had.”

time. Using a blue fine-tip marker, Garrison carefully drew small circles around each of her patient's nipples, then on the underside of both breasts, reaching to the armpit on each side. She finished by drawing two small, straight vertical lines in front of each breast, connecting the incisions to one another.

Shivering with cold, Stockton lay back down and listened intently while the anes-

thesiologist explained exactly what was going to happen. She instructed Stockton to start from 10 and count backward. Stockton was completely unconscious before she reached number eight.

Stockton vividly remembers the hours just before her breast reduction surgery in the spring of 2000. She recalls the surgery as being difficult, but extremely necessary.

Now, several years later, Stockton looks back on the reasons why she chose surgery as the answer.

"I remember having to wear two bras at a time for sports in high school," Stockton said. "One was a regular bra and the other was a really tight Speedo sports bra. It was so tight a teammate sometimes had to help me take it off."

Stockton also remembers the stares she would get. High school girls, boys and even teachers treated her differently just because of her chest size.

"Girls would tell me, 'You're so lucky,'" she said. "I would tell them about how mortifying it is to buy a prom dress. Guys would also make their little comments, and I would get tired of hearing it. I'd say, 'OK, shut up and quit asking me to see them.' But the main reason I wanted plastic surgery is because I didn't want to be the girl with the big boobs anymore."

Stockton started the process by going to her regular doctor, who referred her to a plastic surgeon. The plastic surgeon took and evaluated pictures, took measure-

ments, and received a second opinion from a co-worker in order to get the necessary recommendation for insurance purposes.

"You have to show signs of shoulder pain and back pain," Stockton said. "You also have to be able to show that losing weight would not affect your chest size. This type of surgery is elective, and it costs between \$14,000 and \$15,000. You just about have to get insurance to do it."

Once the insurance money has been allotted, the patient then makes a consultation appointment with a plastic surgeon. Dr. Arthur Hawes is a board certified plastic surgeon at the Ferrell Duncan Clinic in Springfield, Missouri. He specializes in breast reconstruction surgery after a mastectomy, a breast reduction and other reconstruction surgeries. During his initial consultation appointments with his patients, he talks to them about what it is they don't like about their breasts and about the options for improvement.

"We go over specifics of the operation procedures, how we do it, and point out any potential complications," Hawes said. "The initial meeting also helps us to chit-chat and find out the motivation behind the patient's ultimate decision. We try to glean from talking to them if this is something they want or something someone else wants for them."

He said the ideal is that the reasons behind receiving the surgery is because of a personal perception patients have about themselves.

"If they say something like, 'My husband thinks it would be a good idea,' it is a bad situation," he said. "Doing something to change your outside self for someone else is the wrong reason. It has to be something you want."

Not only is it important for a patient who wants to receive plastic surgery to have the right motives, it is also necessary that a patient have realistic expectations about what plastic surgery can do for them.

"Patients are especially worried about the outcome," Hawes said. "Their first question is usually, 'What's it going to look like?' I try to educate them on what to expect. But you have to be careful. Sometimes people see problems that are not there and set such unrealistic expectations that there is no way you could ever satisfy them."

Dr. Carl Price, a board certified plastic surgeon and long-time colleague of Hawes, calls this behavior in patients Body Dysmorphic Disorder. He said this disorder is similar to anorexia.

"These people have an image of themselves that is not based on reality," he said. "They





have surgery after surgery and set standards for their looks that are simply unachievable.”

Though he says he has not had too many patients with symptoms of BDD, Price does admit some patients are not completely happy with the results after surgery.

“It’s a fact of life,” he said. “Things do not always turn out like we or they had expected but we work to fix them. We make sure to get the results we are both happy with.”

After Stockton went through her plastic surgery, she also had some concerns about her results. The surgeon removed two pounds of breast tissue from her left breast and two and a quarter pounds out of her right. She went from a DD-cup to a full C-cup.

“I wanted to go smaller but she (Garrison) said that that was a lot to take out,” Stockton said. “I said medium to small C-cup. She talked me out of wanting that small of a size. I guess she’s the expert, but I still wished I was a little smaller.”

Stockton also has to live with the scarring. She received 300 stitches total, 150 in each breast.

“The scarring around the nipple is the worst,” she said.

“Also, I think she might have rushed on one of them. One of them scarred pretty bad. It didn’t end up looking exactly how I thought it would. It was not my ideal. It’s not bad, though.”

She said she has talked to women who have had a lot worse outcomes and some who have even had to go back and have other procedures done. Overall, Stockton said the surgery did much more good for her life than bad.

“My back is much better, and I am a lot more comfortable now,” she said. “I was a little self-conscious at first, but it doesn’t bother me at all now.”

Several months after her surgery, Stockton’s grandmother took her to the mall to shop for undergarments just like she used to when Stockton was in high school. Back then, all she could wear were “three-clasp, style old-lady bras,” but this trip would prove to be different.

As she walked into Victoria’s Secret and smelled the sweet fragrance of the store’s latest perfume, she eagerly gazed at the rack of 34C bras. She finger-strolled every color and every style like a small child in a candy store. Every bra seemed to feel and look lovelier than the last.

“I got to try their very feminine strapped nightgowns, and I can wear them with or without underwire if I want to,” Stockton said.

“I can also wear these cute cotton ones to bed. Before, I never would have. I was happy. Did I do the right thing? After that day, I knew I most definitely had.”



Extreme Car Audio

Story by Brandon Nivens

Illustrations by Jason Wakefield

Bassheads purchase stereo systems for cars and bragging rights.

Robert Richardson, installation and shop manager for Creative Car Audio, has been a professional installer for 11 years. He performs approximately 20-30 installations per week, which means he spends most of his time hanging halfway out of a car or truck. This year he has been nominated for the Worldwide Installer of the Year Award. Winning 25th in the top 100 installers worldwide, it's a big honor for him after working at it for 11 years. He thinks he's finally receiving the notoriety he deserves.

One of the biggest attractions at Creative Car Audio during the winter season isn't even car audio. It is the mobile video and game systems.

"Satellite radio is getting real popular," Richardson said. "Keyless entry and remote starts were the biggest sellers of the Christmas season. I usually spend my summer months doing stereo, the winter months doing video and remote start."

Richardson said car audio didn't start getting attention in the states until the mid '80s.

"In the early '80s the first major car audio competition occurred," he said. "They had a vehicle that fired off around 120 or 130 decibels of sound. Which, back then, was amazing, and now vehicles are up to 180 decibels, and everything's airtight and liquid cooled. When you get into the upper classes of car audio, it's all a science."

In the future, Richardson expects cars to be more integratable right off of the assembly line. Their computer systems will already be equipped for video systems and remote start systems.

"It will all be a database system, where every part of the car is communicating back and forth," he said.

Cars are expected to be equipped with a 32-volt system, which will allow for smaller amplifiers and other audio components.

"The 32-volt system will help us when the bassheads come in and want tons of power in their car," Richardson said. "You can get a couple 3,000 watt amps in the car, and it won't take up a whole lot of room."

From an installer's standpoint, newer cars are easier to install audio systems than the cars of the past, but some of them are still tricky and complicated when it comes to wiring.

"As far as removing panels off vehicles and changing the speakers out," Richardson said, "the newer cars are much easier."

Anymore, everything's not screwed together. You have to know what snaps off and what screws off so that you don't break all the plastic in the cars."

Richardson believes most new cars already have a good sound system, but when a car sits for 10 years, the speakers can dry rot and start sounding bad.

"Most of the time, car factories build radios that are just enough to call radios," Richardson said. "They don't have any quality, whatsoever, and most people want to upgrade to a CD player. The technology has grown so much that by just replacing your head-unit, the sound is phenomenal without having to add amplifiers."

The subwoofer is also one of the most added components customers request.

As far as price goes, some systems can cost as much as \$3,000-\$4,000.

"What I do with people is I have a good, better, best and then beyond the greatest in the world," Richardson said. "A set of speakers are normally \$25, just for me to take the door off and put the speakers in. Every item is between \$25 and \$100; it just depends on how fancy you want to get with it. I've done just about everything."

Even though he is an experienced audio system installer, Richardson can still run into obstacles.

"Sometimes you'll run into the simplest problem, and it's such an easy fix that you don't even think about it," he said. "It's right there in front of you, and you overlook it. Sometimes you've got to take a step back, chill out for a minute, then go back into the problem. That happens because we have so many cars. Today, I've done three remote starts, a video system and two checkouts of previous customers' systems. So, it's a pretty hectic day, usually."

An installer can sometimes get attached to a custom audio job,

which may take a few weeks or months to complete.

"It's almost like a child that you hate to see go when you're finished with it," he said. "You think, great, now I've got to let it go with these people after I spent all that time building it."

International Auto Sound Challenge of America and United States Auto Sound Challenge are the two leading car audio competitions. The IASCA event is based more around sound quality, whereas USAC is concerned with volume. The world finals of USAC are held in Kansas City, which is fortunate for audiophiles and bassheads around this area.

"It's a morale boost, and it gives you a little hype because you see all those cars and want to rush back home and start working on systems again," Richardson said.

The volume is measured using a meter that determines the air pressure inside the car.

"You stick a microphone on the dash, put the windows up and crank the volume," he said. "Pioneer had a scale one time that said 150 decibels was equivalent to an F-16 jet fighter's volume. Here in downtown Joplin, there are some houses about four or five blocks away that have complained of noise. There's also a lawyer's office around the corner that said everything in their entire office was bouncing off the shelves. Other than that, we're in a good location to have excessive noise. Every day I hear loud Harley-Davidson motorcycles fly by, and even the ice cream truck is as loud as any sound system I've ever heard. I think there's a certain prejudice against thumpin' stereos. I've never seen a biker get pulled over because his bike was too loud, nor have I seen an ice cream truck sitting on the side of the road getting a ticket. It's only the kids with fancy stereos who get the tickets."

Officer Shelby Howard, who's been with the Joplin Police Department for three years, said the Joplin ordinance on noise states that "if any amplified sound, being stereo, TV, or anything similar, can be heard up to 50 feet away it is in violation of the ordinance." It also says that "if you can hear it inside a residence any time of the day, no matter how far away it is, it's in violation of the ordinance."

Howard agreed motorcycles could be just as loud as stereo systems.

"There's no doubt about that, but we don't have as many chopper bikes in Joplin as we do kids with loud stereos," he said.

The Joplin Police Department has tried to contain the issue of noise violation by patrolling Main Street on the weekends.

"We overwhelm Main Street with uniformed officers," Howard said. "We don't have a lot of leniency with any ordinance on Main Street. I guarantee that if you get stopped on Main Street, during the summer, you will get a ticket. And on your third offense, you will go to jail, regardless of the violation."

Michael Kane has been the head installer at Planet Car-Fi in Joplin for three years. Kane received his federal tax ID number when he was 15 and had been ordering from many of the same companies that Planet Car-Fi did. He eventually progressed to the position he now holds.

"My older brother was really into car audio," Kane said. "I studied every little thing and magazine I could get my hands on. I started building speaker boxes when I was 14. I've probably built about 500 speaker boxes since then. They vary from plain-Jane



Andy Tevis

boxes to complete fiberglass enclosures.”

Kane said one of his customers has four 12-inch speakers in his trunk, and it’s actually beating the car so much that it’s tearing up the metal hinges on the trunk.

“It gets extreme,” he said.

“Yesterday I installed a 15-inch fold down TV and DVD system in a brand-new Tahoe. Some people want something small, some want something big.”

As far as the more extreme audio installations go, the ages Kane has installed for has been between 16- and 26-year-olds.

“There are a lot of high school kids who want big systems,” he said. “It seems that if we do one or two from a high school,

“Car audio is just like any other status symbol,” Kane said. “It’s like building an engine, where everybody wants to be the fastest. A guy in a Lexus came in a while back and we put six TVs in his car. Two were on the front visors, two on the front headrests, and then two on the rear headrests so that people outside the car could watch. It’s basically bragging rights.”

Car audio shops consign with certain product manufactures so that there is diversity in the market. Planet Car-Fi is an exclusive Kicker dealer, whereas Creative Car Audio is a JL dealer.

“Most brands have territory restrictions,” Kane said. “Because if you get two businesses carrying the same stuff, the prices start dropping, and people start thinking the quality is going down.”



we get about three more that come up who want to try and be louder.”

It doesn’t take a lot of money to get invested into car audio systems and other components.

“There are people out there that will spend \$10,000 on a system and not think twice about it,” Kane said. “One car I worked on in Springfield won the 1999 World Championship for Overall Sound Quality. The owner of the car was so into it that the installation alone cost around \$20,000. That included airtight fiberglass work and even having individual temperature gauges on each speaker so that a computer could show the exact temperature of each. His car was insanely clean and beautiful sounding, but sometimes people take it to the extreme.”

Kane said he can usually tell in the first 30 seconds of talking with a customer whether they were there for overall sound quality or an extreme bass system.

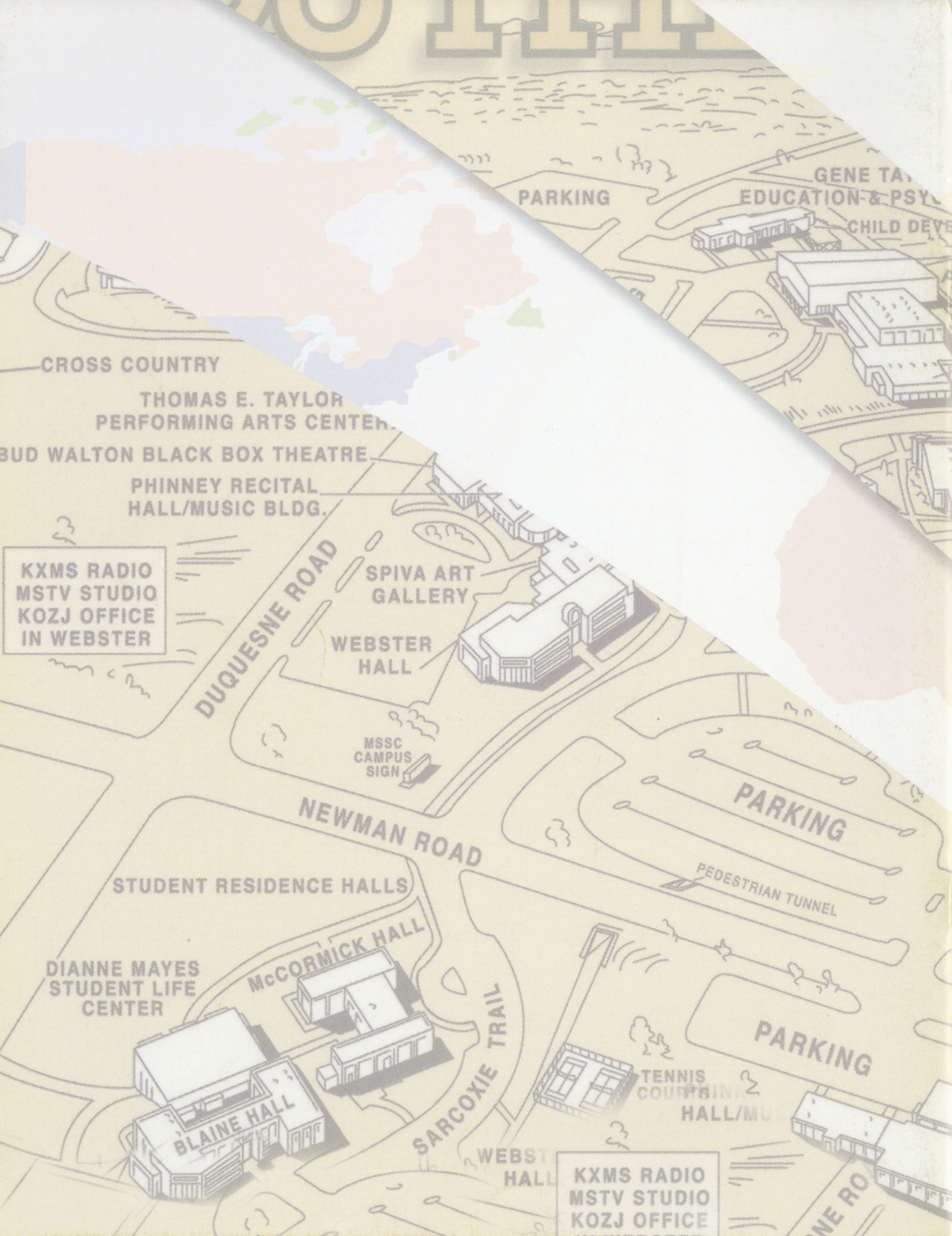
Kane agrees that disturbance of the peace is an ongoing issue with car audio enthusiasts.

“One of our employees a couple of years ago had a Dodge Neon that had four 15-inch speakers in it,” he said.

“In the year that he was driving that car around he got 39 disturbing the peace tickets. Usually, when my friends and I pull up to a stoplight or anything like that, we’ll turn it down just to be courteous to everyone else.”

Kane supports Main Street cruising and socializing.

“I’ve never seen the point of noise complaints and the harassment by the police of kids on Main Street for cruising” he said. “If somebody’s hanging out with a bunch of friends and playing their stereo loud on Main Street, they’re kind of keeping themselves out of trouble, rather than being out partying or stealing. I guess everyone has their own opinion about what is noise.”



CROSS COUNTRY

THOMAS E. TAYLOR
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BUD WALTON BLACK BOX THEATRE

PHINNEY RECITAL
HALL/MUSIC BLDG.

KXMS RADIO
MSTV STUDIO
KOZJ OFFICE
IN WEBSTER

DUQUESNE ROAD

SPIVA ART
GALLERY

WEBSTER
HALL

MSSC
CAMPUS
SIGN

NEWMAN ROAD

STUDENT RESIDENCE HALLS

DIANNE MAYES
STUDENT LIFE
CENTER

MCCORMICK HALL

BLAINE HALL

SARCOXIE TRAIL

WEBSTER
HALL

KXMS RADIO
MSTV STUDIO
KOZJ OFFICE

PARKING

PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL

PARKING

TENNIS
COURT
HALL/MU

GENE TAYLOR
EDUCATION & PSYCH
CHILD DEV